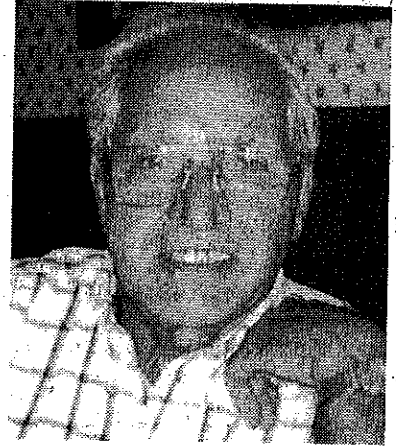


# Ralph Thompson



HR Jun 11, 2009

Ralph Thompson was born on October 7th, 1927 in the small town of Buck Creek, Iowa, and born to eternal life on June 5th, 2009 in Fort Collins, Colorado. He was loved dearly by his wife Anne; sons Ron, Randy and David and his daughters-in-law, Diane, Nicole and Katherine, as well as eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Ralph was born to lone and Clarence Thompson, in a little wooden school house in Buck Creek, Iowa, where his parents came from a farming and teaching background in Northeastern Iowa. He graduated from Manchester High School in the Class of 1945.

He joined the United States Naval Air Force where he became a Supervisor in the Aviation Electrician's Training School in Jacksonville, Florida. There he met Anne Conway Johnson and they were married on June 14, 1947. After the war, he returned to the 4th generation Thompson Family Farm in Buck Creek, where their three sons were raised.

In 1960, Ralph began a new career in the insurance business and the family settled in Manchester, Iowa. He joined the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company in June of 1968 as an Adjustor/Supervisor in Fairfield, Iowa. Ralph was appointed Assistant Director of Education in February of 1975 and moved to corporate headquarters in Grinnell, Iowa. On December 1, 1979, Ralph was named Treasurer and Investments Manager, where he remained until retirement at 71 on January 2, 1998. While business was important to him, the center of Ralph's life was his wife and family. His children and grandchildren enjoyed visiting "grandpa" at the lake home in Oakland Acres where he and Anne maintained a beautiful garden. Weekends and Holidays brought a generation of family gatherings with fishing and boating in the summer, pheasant hunts in the fall and skating and sledding in the winter. Ralph and Anne moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 2005 where they continued to enjoy life and be well cared for by close family near and far.

Ralph loved the beauty of the mountain scenery and going fishing with his Colorado family. Ralph and Anne joined the Bethel Baptist Church, led by Pastor Marc Leverett, where they have especially enjoyed the children, the music and the Christian fellowship with their new church family and friends.

Ralph is survived by two sisters, Kathleen Knudtson and Gail Johnston, who reside in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and by one brother, Robert Thompson of "The Villages," in Florida. Another sister, Joanne, died as an infant and is buried in the Buck Creek Cemetery near where Ralph will be interred.

In addition to his sons Ron in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Randy in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; and David in Ft. Collins, Colorado, Ralph and Anne have eight beloved grandchildren: Christopher J. Thompson; Jessica Anne Thompson; Gwen Anne Braeger; James Loving Thompson; Laura Mary Thompson; Colter Willis Thompson; Adeline Ardbella Thompson and Samuel Willis Thompson, as well as three beloved great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn Rae and McClane Joshua Michael Thompson and Cole Patton Braeger. His loving family will always remember his philosophy and life example: "We go from here."

A memorial service for relatives and friends will be held June 8th at Bethel Baptist Church in Fort Collins and on June 20th at 1:00 PM at the Buck Creek Methodist Church in Buck Creek, Iowa, followed by a brief gathering at the church. Interment services for the immediate family will be held at the Buck Creek Cemetery.