

Richard W. 'Whitey' Beck



CHR 9-609-10

Richard W. "Whitey" Beck, 76, of Grinnell died Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service will take place Saturday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Kathryn Roys, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, and Muriel Johannessen, associate in ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church, officiating. Organist will be Cheryl Irland and vocalists will be Marty Duffus and Rhonda Minner. Pallbearers will be his grandchildren, Ashley, Aaron, Shane, Troy, Austin, Jacob, Jordan, Joshua and Jenna Beck. Honorary bearers will be Gene Campbell, Larry Cooper, Mark Dimit, Worthin Grattan, David, Henry and Tom Harris, Mark Hendrickson, Don Stoker and Lyle White. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday from 12 noon until 8 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

He was born Oct. 4, 1933, in Grinnell, the son of Herman and Marie Graff Beck. He attended rural schools near his home and was a 1951 graduate of Grinnell High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

On July 6, 1958, he was united in marriage with Karen Cooper in Newburg. They farmed in Chester Township for 51 years, moving into Grinnell in September, 2009. He retired from dairy farming in 1996 and had worked for Dimit Farms part time, helping with spring planting and fall harvest.

He was a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge; Grinnell Fast-Pitch Softball Association; both Sonora and

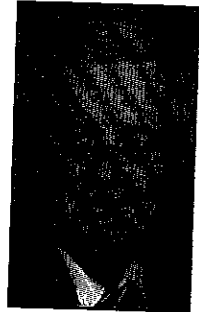
Granges; American Farm Bureau; Mid-American Dairy Association, and Gilman and Sully Co-ops.

He is survived by his wife Karen of Grinnell; three sons, Leon Beck of Grinnell, Robert Beck of Manchester and Daryl Beck of Grinnell; nine grandchildren and one sister Lorna Beck of Colorado Springs, Colo. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Raymond Beck.

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Memorial contributions may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

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Dick was a loving family man and was very active and generous with his grandchildren. He was quiet-natured and honest. He held a passion for fast-pitch softball and was noted not only as an outstanding pitcher, but as one of the best shortstops in the area. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan, and enjoyed watching the Iowa State Cyclones. He enjoyed bowling and had bowled on several league teams for many years. He loved his puppy, Missy.

Survivors include his wife, Karen, of Grinnell; three sons, Leon (Donna) Beck of Grinnell, Roger (Sue) Beck of Manchester, and Daryl (Kelly) Beck of Grinnell; nine grandchildren; and one sister, Lorna Silvers, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his father-in-law, Everett Cooper; and one brother, Raymond Beck.

PCCR 9-15-10