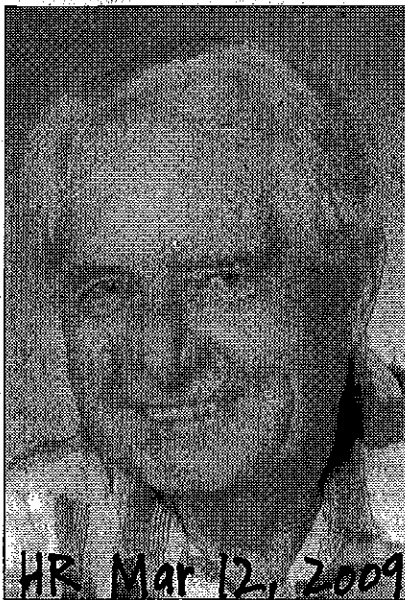


Curtis D. Ferneau



Curtis D. Ferneau, 82, of Grinnell, died Friday, March 6, 2009, at his home.

A funeral service was held, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at Smith Funeral Home with Rev. Carolyn Bittner, pastor of the Malcom-Sheridan United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sheridan Methodist Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice. His family encourages friends to share memories and condolences on his obituary page at www.smithfh.com.

Curtis Dean Ferneau (O' Curt) was born Jan. 4, 1927, in Highland Township, Tama County, to Glen and Marie Ferneau. He attended Tama County and Poweshiek County rural schools, then graduating from Grinnell High School in 1947. In October, 1950, he entered the United States Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean conflict. He was united in marriage with Betty Hunter on Jan. 23, 1955 and they became the parents of four adopted children.

He attended Sheridan United Methodist Church for many years, teaching Sunday School for 40 years and giving several sermons. He was an avid reader, enjoying conservation articles, western books, hunting, and farming magazines. He wrote many memoirs of his life.

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Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home Monday beginning at 12 noon with family members present from 5 to 8 p.m. Memorials may be made to Sheridan Methodist Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

He also was an innovative farmer. He implemented what were considered cutting-edge farming practices, such as no-till farming. He was a salesman for Northrup King Company for 29 years, winning several regional and national awards. His self-proclaimed "Bonus Years" were after he had life-threatening meningitis in 1999. This left him so weak he had to quit active farming but gained a renewal on life.

He is survived by Betty, his wife of 54 years; his children Kirk Ferneau and Heidi Ferneau of Grinnell, and Joni Ferneau Brown of Lombard, Ill.; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; four sisters, Naomi DeHart of Kellogg, Glenda Beaver of Bashaw, Alberta, Canada, Sharon Wassom of Bowling Green, Ky., and Beverly Bryan of Newton and one brother David Ferneau of Malcom. Preceding him in death were his son, Jonathan, and his parents Glen and Marie Ferneau.

OBITUARIES PCCR Mar 11, 2009

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Curt loved to hunt, and he started hunting and trapping as a young child. He was a very accurate shot. The "Turkey Track" acreage in Missouri was Curt's hunting haven that was enjoyed by many. Curt visited his many friends while he was there, and he made new friends through hunting.

Curt attended Sheridan United Methodist church for many years, teaching Sunday School for 40 years and doing several sermons. He was an avid reader, enjoying conservation articles, western books, hunting, and farming magazines. He wrote many memoirs of his life.

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Those left to mourn are his wife, Betty, of 54 years; his children, Kirk Ferneau (Leslie) of Grinnell, Heidi Ferneau of Grinnell, and Joni Ferneau Brown (Steve) of Lombard, Ill.; his eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; his four sisters, Naomi DeHart of Kellogg, Glenda Beaver of Bashaw, Alberta, Canada, Sharon Wassom of Bowling Green, Ky., Beverly Bryan of Newton; and one brother, David Ferneau of Malcom.

Preceding him in death were his son, Jonathan; his parents, Glen and Marie Ferneau; and his brothers-in-law, Wayne Anderson and Ken Bryan.

