

Donald J. Turner



Donald J. Turner, 82, of Grinnell, died June 9, 2012, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 13, at Calvary Baptist Church in Grinnell with Pastor Don Johnston officiating. Organist was Teresa Thompson and vocalist was Jared Johnston. Pallbearers were Calvin, David, Kim, Robert, Jordan, Kaleb and Alexa Turner. Honorary bearers were Leroy Calvin, Neil Johnson and Matt Olson. A family burial will be held at a later date in Bethel Cemetery, south of Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Calvary Baptist Church.

Don was born June 14, 1929, in Osceola, the son of Roland and Hazel Simmons Turner. He was raised on a dairy farm near Humeston and graduated from Humeston High School in 1948, where he excelled in basketball. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in the Korean Conflict.

On May 2, 1951, he was united in marriage with Mildred Thompson, in Colorado Springs. After his military service, the couple lived in Grinnell. He was employed as a yard foreman for Richardson Lumber in Grinnell for over 18 years and then with Industrial Beverage in Grinnell for another eight years. Later he worked for many years in the facilities management department at Grinnell College. He retired in 1994, but continued working part-time as a driver for the college until 2009. For 13 years, he and Mildred enjoyed wintering in Texas.

Don was a member of the American Legion in Grinnell and Calvary Baptist Church, where he was active in many roles. He was committed to faith and family; was a golfer and Hawkeye fan; and while in Texas, enjoyed singing with the vocal group, Gospel Aires.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred of Grinnell; three children, Calvin Turner of Reinbeck, David Turner of Grinnell and Kim Turner of LeGrand; four grandchildren; and one sister, Jeanette Haines of Inglewood, Calif. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Howard Turner; and two sisters, Francis Symonds and Ila Turner.

6-14-2012