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**Marvel M. DeJong**



Marvel M. DeJong, 100, of Grinnell, died on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012, at the Grinnell Health Care Center.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 24, at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The family will be present at the funeral home from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Marvel was born on March 19, 1912, to Martin and Henrietta DeJong in New Sharon. He was one of ten brothers and sisters and raised on the family farm.

Marvel married Jaunita Wilma Halterman on Oct. 1, 1938, at the First Baptist Church in Kirksville, Mo. Work was scarce here, so Marvel and his new wife left to seek employment as a carpenter in the southwest, living in Arizona for some time and following the work through New Mexico, California and the Pacific Northwest.

During World War II Marvel served the country in the United States Navy, where he spent time in the Pacific Islands as a See Bee building airstrips, hangers and facilities for the military effort. At war's end he and his wife returned to New Sharon. The couple later moved to Grinnell, where he was a carpenter and operated DeJong Construction Company. He returned to New Sharon in 2002 and has resided at the Grinnell Health Care Center since 2009.

Marvel was a conservationist, and an avid fisherman.

Marvel is survived by his son, Ronald P. DeJong of Ashland, Ore.; three grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; five brothers; and four sisters.