

Hilliard Turner, Sr.

BHR
10-4-2012

Hilliard Hayes Turner, Sr., 98, of Grinnell, was born April 22, 1914, in Monticello, Kentucky, and departed this life September 30, 2012, in Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

He was the son of John Monroe and Mary Daisy Green Turner. He grew up in central Iowa, attending Kellogg schools. He was married to Eldora Virginia Rickard on Dec. 31, 1933. They farmed in Poweshiek and Jasper Counties. In those days Grange activities, softball and making ice cream were important. After moving to Grinnell in 1945, he ran a radiator shop and started a salvage yard.



Hilliard was a man intensely devoted to his family and friends. Every new grandchild, great-grandchild, or great-great grandchild was held tightly to his chest, a radiant smile beaming from his face. Treasured memories for many are riding in Hilliard's 1925 Model T, receiving hand-crocheted afghans, caps, scarves, animals or an oven-towel, and fishing from the pontoon boat.

His mechanical skills helped restore a number of vintage automobiles and also transform old school buses into unique RVs for fishing expeditions. "The Shop" was a memorable adventure for his grandchildren, too, and provided an outlet for adolescent exploration that can never be duplicated.

Mr. Turner's faith was the anchor for the lifelong values made clear to all who knew him. He was active in the First Baptist Church in Grinnell, Iowa, the Presbyterian Church in Rogers, Arkansas, and the Marshfield United Methodist Church in Marshfield, Missouri.

Hilliard Turner was a man of conviction, of vision, of passion and of tenderness. Those who knew him understand the depth of his caring for his fellowman. A man who always placed others first, his last earthly act was to donate skin tissue for the medical benefit of others. He will be truly missed.

Survivors include three children and their spouses: Virginia and Mike Ahrens, Marshfield, Missouri; Hilliard Junior and Judy Turner, Grinnell, and Sharon and James Voorhees, Cedar Falls, Iowa; nine grandchildren, Michael Ahrens, Steven Ahrens, Robert Ahrens, Diane Forristall, Joni Harris, Laura Poole, Greg Turner, Natalie Wissink and John Martin Anderson; three step-grandchildren, Scott Anderson, Marlys Anderson, and Tim Anderson; 24 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 71 years, his parents, four sisters, three brothers, and grandson John Martin Ahrens.

Friends are invited to join the family for visitation from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 6, 2012, at the First Baptist Church, 925 East Street in Grinnell. Funeral services will begin at 11:30 a.m., Saturday at the church with lunch to follow. A private family burial will be held at Liberty Rock Creek Cemetery in rural Jasper County.

Memorials may be directed to the Boy Scouts of America or the First Baptist Church "Kids Against Hunger" (KAH). Memorials may be left at the church on the morning of the services or may be mailed to the Wallace Family Funeral Home, 1115 E. 19th St. N., Newton, Iowa 50208; please add, Attn: Turner Family on the envelope.