

Frank Wilder, 97, of Grinnell, died Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, at his home under the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice and surrounded by his family.

Mass of the Resurrection was held Wednesday, Sept. 11, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Ron Hodges, pastor of the church, officiating. Music was provided by Marilyn Kriegel, organist, and St. Mary's Choir. Casket bearers were Christopher Wehr, Chad Wehr, Craig Wehr, Michael Gawloski, Neil Manternach and Michael Rooks. A graveside service was held Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minn.

Memorials may be directed to St. Mary's Parish Foundation.

Frank was born on June 25, 1916, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Charles and Margaret Minoque Wilder. He attended public school in Minneapolis, St. Mary's Seminary in Techney, Ill., and Sacred Heart College in Girard, Pa. He also attended the University of Minnesota. Following his education he worked for the BF Goodrich Company, Edward Hoffman Furniture Company and eventually became manager for a ladies ready to wear store.

On June 28, 1941, he married Helene L. Luffey at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Delano, Minn. The couple lived in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Winona before moving to Oskaloosa in the early 1950s. While living in Oskaloosa he managed the Smart and Thrifty Ready to Wear Store and Credit Bureaus in Oskaloosa, Grinnell and Marshalltown. In 1979, the couple moved to Grinnell to retire.

Frank was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell and served in various councils of the church. He was an active member of the Grinnell Senior Chamber of Commerce and the Knights of Columbus. Frank served as District and State Deputy of the Iowa Knights of Columbus and as District Master in the Fourth Degree for ten years. He was bestowed the honor of Knight of St. Gregory by Pope John Paul in 1991. He enjoyed fraternal activities, solving crossword puzzles, bowling and traveling throughout North America, Europe and Africa.

He is survived by his wife, Helene Wilder of Grinnell; his children, Karen "Kay" Wehr of Lawrence, Kan., Sheila Louise Wilder of Grinnell, Dennis J. Wilder of Minnetonka, Minn., Barbara Gawloski of Burlington, Wis., and Patrick Wilder of Palm Beach Garden, Fla.; nine grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; one great great grandson; and two brothers, Charles Wilder of White Bear Lake, Minn., and Edward J. Wilder of Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Margaret Breviu.

Francis J. 'Frank' Wilder

67-R 9-12-2013



Frank Wilder

Frank Wilder, 97, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, at his home surrounded by his family and in the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Interment will be 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, at Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minn.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning 12 noon on Tuesday and the family will be present at the funeral home from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to St. Mary's Parish Foundation.

4-R 9-9-2013