

Marvin Kelley

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1-20-2014



Marvin Kelley, 82, of Grinnell died Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell. Visitation will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the church. Following the service, his body will be cremated and burial will be held in the Prairie Grove Cemetery in rural Danville, Iowa, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.hollandcoblefuneralhomes.com. Holland-Coble Funeral Home of

Montezuma is in charge of arrangements.

Marvin Eugene Kelley, the son of Will and Mary Nielsen Kelley, was born the youngest of 12 children on Jan. 28, 1931 in Danville, Iowa. He was a 1948 graduate of Danville High School. Marvin attended Burlington Junior College before transferring to Iowa State University, where he studied agriculture in the field of farm operations. Marvin enlisted in the United States Army in 1952, serving until 1954. Following his honorable discharge, Marvin went back to Drake University and received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree in 1956 and his Master of Music Education Degree in 1960. Marvin taught music at Earlham Community Schools in Earlham, Iowa; Army Dependent Schools in Verdun, France; Knoxville community schools; and Grinnell-Newburg community school before retiring in 1990. After his retirement, Marvin taught vocal music to Grinnell College students two days a week at his home.

During his tenure, he joined the American Choral Directors Association and the Iowa Choral Directors Association, where he was a member of the board of directors from 1961 thru 1981 and was elected president from 1968 to 1970. He was a member of the National Association of Teacher Singing. Marvin worked as an adjudicator for the Iowa All State Auditions and State Music Contests for the Iowa High School Music Association from 1961 to 1990. He organized the first Iowa State Choral Directors Convention held in January of 1966 at Drake University. He was the recipient of the Robert McCown Memorial Award in 1973. Marvin was elected to the Iowa All State Choral Chairman and Iowa Music Educators Choral from 1976 to 1982. He received the distinguished service award from the Iowa Music Educators Association in 1990. Marvin was the teacher of the year for community service at Knoxville Community School in 1968 and Grinnell-Newburg community school in 1984. Marvin directed several community choirs, church choirs, junior high and high school choirs, taking a select group to Europe for six summers.

Marvin is preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Dale Kelley, Jim Kelley, Wilma Kuhns, Bob Kelley, Wanda Magel, Dolly Phebus, Frances Gillaspie, Ruth Soergel, Mary Lou Stufflebeam and Dan Kelley.

He is survived by his sister, Bonnie Clyman, and several nieces, nephews and friends.