

G.H.-R
6-12-2014

Thomas M. Arnold



Thomas M. Arnold, 91, of Grinnell and formerly of Marshalltown, died on Saturday, June 7, 2014, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 14, 2014, at the Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. James V. Hamblen officiating. Inurnment will be at a later date at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the Federation of the Blind and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

The family will be present at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell one hour prior to the service.

Thomas was born on Friday, August 11, 1922, in Palestine, Texas, to Raiford and Gracy Baber Arnold. He was raised in Texas and received his education there. During World War II, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division in the U.S. Army. He was stationed at the Schofield Barracks at Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. Later in the war he was a paratrooper and served in Europe. He spent 20 years with the United States Army and was stationed in Germany and various military bases in the United States. He moved to Grinnell, Iowa, in 1962 and was married to Helen Ruth Simpson on November 20, 1962 in Marshalltown. The couple lived in Marshalltown and he worked as a lab technician at Lenox Industries in Marshalltown and Richardson, Texas. Following his retirement in 1983, Tom and Helen moved to Tyler, Texas, to make their home. They relocated to Grinnell in May of 2014 to reside at Seeland Park.

He was a member of the Southern Oaks Baptist Church in Tyler, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite and the Shrines International.

Tom enjoyed fishing, reading and maintaining his health by routine exercises.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Ruth Arnold of Grinnell; one son, Michael W. Bennett of Eugene, Oregon; two grandchildren, Jesse Bennett and Storey Chase; and his adopted sister, Beverly (James) Hamblen of Winston-Salem, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Steven W. Arnold; and one sister, Jane Hyde.