

6H-R 10-6-2014
Ernest Blankenfeld

Ernest Blankenfeld, 89, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell. Interment with military rites will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 2 p.m. on Tuesday at Smith Funeral Home and the family will be present to greet friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Tuesday evening.

Memorials may be designated to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Medical Center to benefit the

Intensive Care Unit. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

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Ernest Blankenfeld, 89, of Grinnell, died Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center with his family by his side.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell with Muriel Johannessen officiating. Interment with military rites was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Medical Center to benefit the Intensive Care Unit. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Ernest was born the son of Jacob and Mable Reeson Blankenfeld on June 4, 1925, in Niobrara, Neb. In 1930, the family moved to Grinnell, where he

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was raised and educated.

Ernie honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy as a Carpenters Mate III during World War II from 1943 until 1946. On June 4, 1946, he was united in marriage with JoAnne Ellett at her sister, Jenny Needham's home in Perry, and the couple resided in and raised their family in Grinnell. Ernie worked Smith's Dairy and then was a carpenter with George Wilson and with Harlan Inman. In 1962, he began working at Grinnell College and was manager of the heating plant. After 28 years of employment he retired in 1990.

Ernie was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell and a lifetime member of the Grinnell American Legion. At Christmas, Ernie and JoAnne played Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and visited the residents of the Mayflower Community. They loved dancing at the family weddings and riding their tandem bicycle on the streets of Grinnell. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting pheasants and squirrels, and swimming.

Ernie is survived by his wife of 68 years, JoAnne Blankenfeld of Grinnell; three daughters Andrea Strovers of Grinnell, Denise Jones of Williamsburg, and Dena Amo of Brooklyn; two sons Richard Blankenfeld of Ames and Bruce Blankenfeld of Grinnell; 13 grandchildren; and 25 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons Jerome and Leon Blankenfeld; a great grandson; and six sisters, Ruby Walter, Eleanor Ogden, Grace Lamb, Blanche Hiser, Joyce Wilbourn, and Dorothy Blankenfeld, who died in infancy.

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OBITUARIES/NEWS

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Ernie honorably served his country in the United States Navy as a Carpenters Mate III during World War II from 1943 until 1946. On June 4, 1946, he was united in marriage to JoAnne Ellett at her sister, Jenny Needham's home in Perry. The couple resided and raised their family in Grinnell and Ernie worked at Smith's Dairy and then was a carpenter with George Wilson and Harlan Inman respectively. In 1962, he began working at Grinnell College and was the manager of the heating plant. After 28 years of employment he retired in 1990.

Ernie was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell and a

lifetime member of the Grinnell American Legion. His family was his life. He enjoyed playing with the grandchildren and attending their activities. At Christmas, Ernie and JoAnne played Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and visited the residents of the Mayflower Community to bring about the holiday spirit. They also loved dancing at the family weddings and Ernie would do his double-click heals or as he described it as his signature "grandpa move." They also spent countless hours riding their tandem bicycle on the city streets of Grinnell. His enjoyments included fishing, hunting pheasants and squirrels, and swimming at the Grinnell College PEC pool. Ernie never met a stranger and will be remembered for making those around him feel special and for being a kind, caring and loving person.

Ernie is survived by his wife of 68 years, JoAnne Blankenfeld of Grinnell; three daughters, Andrea Strovers of Grinnell, Denise (Richard) Jones of Williamsburg, Dena (David) Amo of Brooklyn; two sons, Richard (Connie) Blankenfeld of Ames, and Bruce (Laura) Blankenfeld of Grinnell; 13 grandchildren; and 25 great grandchildren.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Jerome and Leon Blankenfeld; great grandson, Dylan Graff; son-in-law, Paul Strovers II; six sisters, Ruby Walter, Eleanor Ogden, Grace Lamb, Blanche Hiser, Joyce Wilbourn, and Dorothy Blankenfeld, who died in infancy.

Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell handled the arrangement.