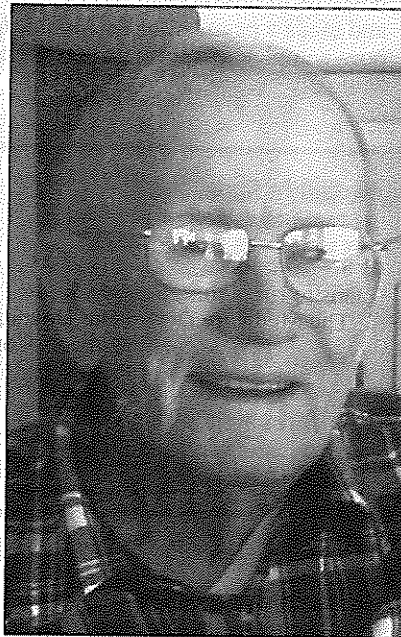


Victor L. Graden *GH-R* 5-7-2015



Victor L. Graden, 89, of Grinnell, formerly of Bettendorf, Iowa, died on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 9, 2015, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community with the Rev. Cameron Barr, pastor of the Grinnell United Church of Christ - Congregational and the Rev. Christine Tinker, chaplain of the Mayflower Community, officiating. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the Mayflower Human

Needs Endowment Fund and can be mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Victor Louis Graden was born the seventh of eleven children on Saturday, July 11, 1925 near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Louis and Ella Graden. He was raised on the family farm and educated at country schools near their home. He graduated from College High School in 1943 and subsequently attended Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

He honorably served his country as a U.S. Merchant Marine from 1944-1946. He entered into service in the U.S. Army in 1946, was later separated from service and attended college for two years, and was recalled to active duty at Fort Riley in Kansas in 1950 as a Staff Sergeant during the Korean War. Victor was united in marriage to Wilma Adele Maxton on April 12, 1952, at the Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church in Cape Girardeau. The couple resided in Manhattan, Kansas, while Victor was stationed at Fort Riley. Following his discharge he earned a BA degree in Industrial Engineering from Kansas State University in 1954. The couple moved to Bettendorf, Iowa, soon after his graduation and Victor began his longtime career of thirty years as an industrial engineer at Alcoa, Davenport Works. They moved to Grinnell in 2008 and have resided at the Mayflower Community.

Victor held a strong love for his family and his faith. He cherished the times the family would go camping together, especially at Pilgrim Heights Camp in Montour. He was very active at Faith United Church of Christ in Davenport and the United Church of Christ - Congregational in Grinnell. At Faith United Church of Christ he served on the church council, sang in the church choir, and was a Sunday school teacher for several years. He was also active as a Boy Scout leader who enjoyed going on canoeing and camping excursions with his sons, and enjoyed gardening with his daughter. He loved doing things with his grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking and traveling, especially overseas trips with his wife to England, Germany, Ireland, and the Holy Land. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor, his patience, and for his kind, gentle and loving way.

Victor is survived by his wife of 63 years, Wilma Graden of Grinnell; two sons, Roger (Julia) Graden of Ames, Iowa, and Barry (Lela) Graden of Greenville, South Carolina; a daughter, Lori (Tim) Lockhart of Tarpon Springs, Florida; 6 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and a sister, Esther Morie of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Paula, Stella, Edna, Ruby, Helen, Emma, Earl, Ruth, and Marguerite.