

Lee Utterback



Lee Utterback, age 93, of Grinnell, passed peacefully on Monday, Sept. 14, at St. Francis Manor.

A funeral service with military honors will be held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Visitation will be held prior to his service beginning at 12:00 p.m. at the funeral home. A private burial will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice, 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.

Leland LeRoy Utterback was born on April 5, 1922, in Delta, Iowa. He was the second of 11 children born to Otto and Freda (Strohman) Utterback. After high school, Lee joined the United States Army during World War II and was a Staff Sergeant with the 3811th QM Truck Company. He landed in France on D-Day and spent time in England, France, Belgium, and Germany until the end of the war. After returning from World War II, Lee married Betty Dawson on April 24, 1946.

Lee started his career managing Graham's department stores throughout Iowa, and eventually became vice-president of the company. His career led Lee and his family to live in various cities throughout Iowa, including Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Harlan, Atlantic, Corydon, and he eventually retired in Grinnell. In the fall of 1981, Lee, his wife Betty, and daughter Pam opened Rainbow's End, a gift shop on Main Street in downtown Grinnell.

Lee is survived by his daughter, Pam Grundler (Harold Eccles) of Grinnell; grandson, Chris (Ashley) Grundler and great-granddaughter, Claire of Grinnell; step-grandson, Scott (Julie) Eccles and family of Brooklyn; step-granddaughters, Denise Coffman and family of Berryton, KS, and Cindy Eccles of Omaha, NE; sister, Ruth Stanley of Oskaloosa; brothers, Jimmie (Midge) Utterback of Kansas City, K (Jeanie) Utterback of Winterset and Richard (Donna) Utterback of Texas; and sisters-in-law, Cris Utterback of Sigourney, and Jan Sears of Ankeny.

Lee was preceded in death by his loving wife, Betty; his mother Freda; his father Otto; his brothers Loren, Bruce, Jack, Hal, Larry; and his sister, Betty.

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