

Tilford Christenson



Tilford Christenson, 89, of Lake Mills, formerly of Grinnell, died Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

A funeral service was held Sunday, March 12, 2006, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, rural Thompson, with the Rev. Chris Fiske officiating. Visitation was held Sunday one hour prior to services at the church. Burial took place at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery. Military honors were conducted by American Legion Post No. 454 of Kiester, Minn.

He was born May 9, 1916, in Eden Township, Winnebago County, Iowa, to Ole B. and Stella Larson Christenson. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church and graduated from Thompson High School after which he served in the United States Navy during World War II. He was married to Viola Drussell on April 10, 1937, and shared nearly 67 years of his life with her. They farmed together in Eden Township until 1965.

He sang in the Trinity Church choir for many years as well as in a quartet and sang solos at weddings and funerals. He also spent many years working with youth of the community as a boys' 4-H leader and coaching a teen baseball league in Eden Township.

In 1965 he joined Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. where he worked as a crop-hail supervisor, county-mutual auditor and ultimately as treasurer of the company. He retired in 1980 and with his wife Viola spent many winters in Mesa, Ariz., where he sang in a barbershop chorus and continued to enjoy music. The Christensons moved to Lake Mills in 2000.

He was always ready to pitch in and help with a project, preferring to keep busy. He loved to visit and always had a story to share.

He is survived by one son Gene Christenson of New Brighton, Minn., and one daughter Neoma Walter of Grinnell; six grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his wife Viola; his parents and one sister Anna Erdahl.