

## Robert I. Hale

Robert Ingold Hale, 90, of Sun City, Calif., formerly of Grinnell, died Tuesday, March 7, 2006.

An inurnment of his ashes will take place in the family plot at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. A small family graveside service will be held later in the spring.

He was born May 22, 1915, in Cedar Rapids to Leonard Oliver and Martha Ingold Hale. He grew up in Grinnell and was a 1932 graduate of Grinnell High School after which he attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He earned the bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering with honors from the University of Iowa in 1937 and membership in Tau Beta Pi national honorary engineering society.

He was married in 1935 to Helen Molsberry, his childhood sweetheart, and they were married nearly 60 years at the time of her death in 1994. He had originated the University of Iowa Flying Club, and after graduation went to work for Glen L. Martin in Middle River, Md., the origin of Martin Marietta Corporation which later became Lockheed Martin. During World War II he assisted in designing and building the B-26 Martin Marauder Bomber. He worked with many engineers and pioneers in the American aerospace industry, including William Boeing; Donald Douglas, founder of Douglas Aircraft; and Lawrence Bell

of Bell Helicopters. In 1942 he joined Transcontinental & Air Express which later was purchased by Howard Hughes and renamed TransWorld Airlines.

In 1950 he became a partner in Booz Allen & Hamilton, a Chicago consulting firm where he was a technology consultant in development of the United States military's aviation including jet and rocket engines. In 1963 he became manufacturing manager, and later general manager of the J.I. Case Co. in Burlington which manufactured earth-moving and construction equipment, loaders and backhoes, retiring from that firm in 1983 although continuing to live in that community until 1994. He served on the board of the Burlington Bank & Trust, Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Burlington Golf Club, Burlington Memorial Hospital and Iowa Manufacturers Association and continued support of the University of Iowa. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and built model and lightweight airplanes. He and his wife spent many weeks traveling throughout the United States and Mexico in their motor homes, visiting family and friends. He moved to Sun City in 1996.

He is survived by one son, James R. Hale of Naperville, Ill.; two daughters Janice Messer of Canyon Lake, Calif., and Dr. Jean E. Hale of Gold Beach, Oregon; five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren; one sister, Martha May Hale Agar of Green Valley, Ariz., and one sister-in-law Constance Molsberry of Grinnell. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife and one daughter Nancy Hale.