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11-18-2019 Eugene Kenneth Dayton

Eugene Kenneth Dayton, 91, of Grinnell died on November 15, 2019, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A Celebration of Life service with military honors has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 21, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. A family burial will be held at a later date at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom.

Visitation will be held prior to his service from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Eugene K. Dayton Memorial Fund.

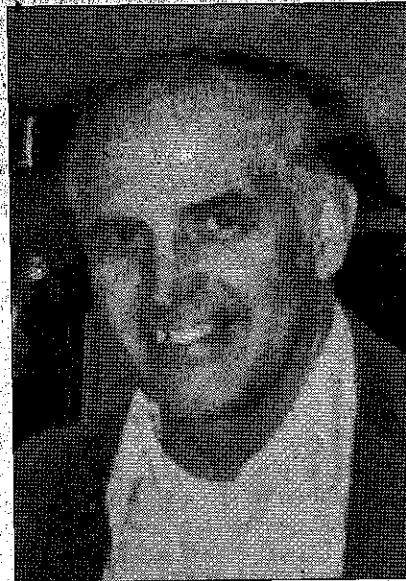
Eugene was born on October 14, 1928, on the family farm near Brooklyn, Iowa, the son of Ray Korn and Etta Bernice Force Dayton. He was raised in the Malcom area along with four siblings, where he learned from his parents the value of hard work. He attended country schools near his home and graduated from Malcom High School in 1946. Eugene was a veteran of the United States Navy Seabees having served post World War II as Carpenter's Mate 3rd Class.

On March 14, 1949, he was united in marriage with Catherine June Haines, in Montezuma. To this union they had four children, Barbara, Sally, Garry, and Randy. They were later divorced and on March 22, 1966, he was married to Farrell Edna Davis, in Kirksville, Missouri. The couple lived on a farm southwest of Grinnell for a few years and in 1968 they moved to a farm north of New Sharon. In addition to raising their own children they also raised three grandsons, Gene, Bill and Scott Kephart.

Eugene was a member and past commander of both the Grinnell and Malcom American Legions.

Eugene loved his life on the farm and some of his happiest times were on his tractor in the fields. He enjoyed the outdoors, doing farm chores, which included taking care of his dairy herd, and tending to his many flower gardens. He held a passion for dancing, attending dances in the area, and listening to music. He enjoyed being around other people and the many conversations and stories he would share. Eugene never knew a stranger!

Survivors include his children, Sally (David) Mills of Grinnell and Garry (Lynn) Dayton of New Sharon; one step-daughter, Sharon (Dennis) Blanke of New Sharon; two siblings, Lawrence (Edith) Dayton of Malcom and Roberta Dayton of Eldridge; 18 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his grandparents; his parents; both wives, Catherine and Farrell; two children, Barbara Boots and Randy Dayton; one step-daughter, Lucy Davis; two brothers, Marvin and Wayne Dayton; one sister, Lucille Innis; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.



**PCCR 11-27-2019 Eugene Dayton**

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