

## Kenneth J. Benda



as chairman of the Iowa Commerce Commission from 1970 to 1971, and as President of the Independent Bankers Association of America from 1975 to 1976.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lucille Benda of Grinnell; his daughter Barbara Benda Jenkins of Amherst, Mass.; his son, Jim Benda of Des Moines; one granddaughter; one great granddaughter and one sister, Alberta Brosnahan of Brooklyn. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Arnold Benda.

Kenneth J. Benda, 88, of Grinnell died Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Oct. 4, at the United Church of Christ-Congregational with the Rev. Susan Meier and the Rev. Clyde Leimberer officiating. Casket bearers were Gene Goodman, Bryan Haskell, Don Henning, Jerry Henning, Alan Knaack and Brian Veach. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery with military honors. Memorials may be made to the Kenneth J. Benda Memorial Fund to benefit college scholarships. Online condolences may be submitted to the family at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

He was born Nov. 9, 1918, in rural Brooklyn, the son of James and Rose Posekany Benda. He was raised on the family farm, attending rural Jefferson Township #4 School near his home. He graduated from Hartwick High School with the class of 1936 and from Iowa State University in Ames in 1940 with a degree in Forestry. He was united in marriage with Lucille Roudabush in Lancaster, Mo., on July 5, 1941. He served his country as a lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War II on the USS Sagamon in the Pacific theater of war.

He began working at the Hartwick State Bank in Hartwick in 1946, eventually purchasing controlling shares of the bank in 1954. He retired as president of the bank in 1991, continuing to serve on its board of directors until his death. He also served as Commander of the Iowa Department of the American Legion from 1956 to 1957; as an Iowa State Senator from 1962 to 1970;

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## **Kenneth J. Benda**

Kenneth J. Benda, 89, of Grinnell died on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell, with interment in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning at noon Wednesday; the family will be present at the funeral home from 5 to 7 p.m. that night.

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A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the UCC – Congregational Church in Grinnell. Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the Kenneth J. Benda Memorial Fund to provide college scholarships. Online condolences may be submitted to the family on the Smith Funeral Home Web site at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Kenneth was born on Nov. 9, 1918, in rural Brooklyn, to James and Rose Posekany Benda. He was raised on the family farm and attended Jefferson Township Country School #4 near his home. He graduated from Hartwick High School with the Class of 1936 and from Iowa State University in 1940 with a degree in Forestry.

He was united in marriage to Lucille Roudabush in Lancaster, Mo., on July 5, 1941. To this union were born two children, Barbara and James. He served his country as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War II on the USS Sangamon and served in the Pacific theater.

Kenneth began working at the Hartwick State Bank in Hartwick, in 1946, and eventually purchased controlling shares of the bank in 1954. He retired as bank president in 1991 and continued to serve on the Hartwick State Bank Board of Directors until his death. His accomplishments include serving as Iowa Department Commander of the American Legion from 1956-1957, Iowa State Senator from 1962-1970, Iowa Commerce Commission Chairman from 1970-1971, and President of the Independent Bankers Association of America from 1975-1976.

Kenneth is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lucille Benda of Grinnell; his children, Barbara Benda Jenkins of Amherst, Mass., and Jim Benda of Des Moines; his granddaughter, Eve Davey of Bozeman, Mont.; his great-granddaughter, Althea Davey of Bozeman, Mont.; and his sister, Alberta Brosnahan of Brooklyn; and several nieces and nephews.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Arnold Benda.

