

William Emperley



William "Del" Emperley, 86, of Grinnell, formerly of Newton, died Thursday, May 17, 2007, in the Monarch Wing of Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

A funeral service was held Monday, May 21, at First Baptist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Tim Stewart, pastor, officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian. Pallbearers were Tony Schilling, Jim Plumb, Joel Clifton, Larry and David Cooper and Stephanie Emperley. Honorary bearers were Dennis Burnette, Roger Schilling, Jason Trotter, Dennis, Roger and Bill Emperley, Kim Cooper, Jason and Jeff Dickerson, Jeremy Coleman and John and Troy Harlow. Burial was in Rock Creek Cemetery, rural Grinnell.

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The son of William R. and Cora Johnson Emperley, he was born March 22, 1921, in Sedan, Iowa. He later moved to Kellogg and was a 1940 graduate of Kellogg High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army during World War II. He began working for the Maytag Corporation in 1949 where he was a dedicated employee for 35 years, retiring in 1984 as superintendent of tooling. He lived most of his life in Newton and for several years at Rock Creek Lake. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, American Legion, Maytag Management Club and First Baptist Church, Grinnell.

He was married on May 11, 1993, to Mary Koger Rayl in Gravois Mills, Mo. They lived in Newton prior to moving to Grinnell in 1999.

He is survived by his wife Mary of Grinnell; two children, Karen Schilling of Kennesaw, Ga., and Dennis Emperley of Morganton, N.C.; five step children, Sandra Cooper and Tom Clifton of Grinnell, John Koger of Omaha, Neb., Kathy Trotter of Newton and Susan Harlow of Pearl, Miss.; one brother, Doyle Emperley of Clovis, N. M.; four grandchildren; 14 step grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and 12 step great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one step granddaughter, Teresa Ann Cooper.