William T. McKibben



William T. McKibben, 91, of Osage Beach, Mo., formerly of Grinnell, Professor of Classics at Grinnell College from 1952 until 1982, died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007, at his home.

His body has been willed to the University of Missouri Medical College in Columbia, Mo. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Sallie Verrette officiating. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or the McKibben Lectureship at Grinnell College,

He was born Sept. 30, 1916, in

Kirkland, Wash., the son of Ernest C. and Brittanica McKibben. He was married on June 25, 1945 in Chicago, Ill., to Elizabeth (Betty) Pence, also a classicist. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Stanford University and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago after which he received a Fullbright Fellowship to study for two years at the American Academy in Rome, Italy.

He was a commissioned officer in the United States Navy during World War II. He taught for four years at the Univesity of Utah in Salt Lake City. He joined the faculty at Grinnell College in 1952, retiring at the close of the 1981-82 academic year after 30 years of teaching, lecturing and publishing academic articles, during which time his wife Betty shared teaching responsibilities. For many years, the McKibbens also hosted in their home a series of weekly Latin reading groups.

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome as well as holding memberships in many academic and honorary societies.

He is survived by one son, Dr. Andrew McKibben (Cory) of Osage Beach and two stepgrandchildren, Sean and Sarah Hockley of Osage Beach. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty and two sons, Timothy and Charles McKibben.