

Eldon Gerard

Eldon Gerard, 88, of Grinnell died Aug. 12, 2009, at St. Francis Manor.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Aug. 15, at Smith Funeral Home with Pastor Dan Ver Woord officiating. Organist was David Gerard and vocalist Rhonda Minner. Pallbearers were David and Jerry Barns, Daniel Bragg, Roger Gerard, Kyle Hadley, and Jason Roush. Honorary bearers were Bill Belcher, Carroll Gerard, Dennis, Jim and Richard Parrott, John C. Roush, Wayne Sadler, and Bob Teed. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation was held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

He was born Nov. 21, 1920, on the family farm near Ewart, the son of Charley and Ivy Enola McMains Gerard. He was raised on the farm and attended rural school near his home. He later, at the age of 75, received his G.E.D. degree of which he was very proud and honored to have achieved. He was a veteran of the United States Army Air Force during World War II and was a B-17 mechanic while stationed in England.

On Oct. 23, 1945, he was united in marriage with Naomi Brooks at the Brooks family home, rural Grinnell. He owned and operated Gerard Feed Store for 33 years and later worked as a mechanic at Lavern's Repair Shop. He then was the maintenance and housekeeping manager at Brookhaven Nursing Home in Brooklyn for 10 years, retiring on Dec. 27, 1990.

He was a member of First Assembly of God Church in Grinnell which he served as Deacon for 38 years and Leader of the Song service for 30 years, and a member of the Brooklyn American Legion for over 50 years. He was a born-again Christian at a young age and lived the faith all his life. He loved raising Belgian horses and particularly enjoyed attending the Old Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant.

Survivors include his wife, Naomi of Grinnell; two daughters Lavon Roush of Kansas City, Mo., and Linda Barns of Grinnell; one brother Emil Gerard of Omaha, Neb.; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and a step-great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Paul, Harold, Homer, and Clifford Gerard; and one sister, Vergie Peters.

GHR Aug 17, 2009

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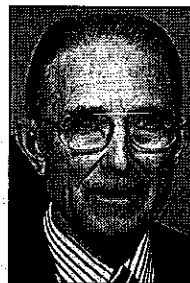
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Eldon was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Grinnell where he served as deacon for 38 years, Leader of the Song service for 30 years, and a member of the Brooklyn American Legion for over 50 years. He was a born-again Christian at a young age and lived the faith all his life. He loved his life on the farm, working with farm machinery and livestock, including raising Belgium horses. He enjoyed gardening, reading, attending auctions, and traveling. He held a passion for railroad and farm steam engines and particularly enjoyed attending the Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant.

Survivors include his wife, Naomi of Grinnell; two daughters, Lavon Roush of Kansas City, Mo., and Linda (Jerry) Barns of Grinnell; one brother, Emil Gerard of Omaha, Neb.; four grandchildren, John and Jason Roush of Kansas City, David Barns of Grinnell; and Julie Hadley of Waldorf, Md.; four great-grandchildren, Cortney, Joshua, Drew and Michael; and a step-great-grandson, Jeremiah.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Paul, Harold, Homer, and Clifford Gerard; and one sister, Vergie Peters.



PCCR Aug 19, 2009