James Brownlie Lang, 87

James Brownlie Lang, 87, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, in Grinnell Regional Medical Center, after a short illness.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Grinnell Christian Church with the Rev. John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiating. Music will be provided by Lynn Schwarck, pianist, and Merle Doty, Mark Hendrickson, Bob Toney and Dave Vander Linden, vocalists. Martha Lang will be the harpist. Casket Bearers will be Steven Lang, Ray Lang, Marvin Stoker, Jerry Lang, Kurtis Younkin and Paul Lang. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.



Memorials may be directed to the Grinnell Christian Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.

James was born on Jan. 5, 1922, on the family farm in Madison Township near Brooklyn to James Russell and Agnes Graham Lang. While growing up, he won many Grand Champion Aryshire Bulls and Cows awards at the State Fair and Dairy Cattle Congress. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1940, and attended Iowa State University until World War II began. In 1941, he attended the Lincoln Aeronautical Institute in Lincoln, Neb., after which he was an instructor for the Air Force. In 1944, he returned home and assisted his family with the operation of Lang's Parlor Dairy.

James was married to Norma Davis from Storm Lake on Feb. 11, 1945, at the Madison Church of Christ, rural Brooklyn, In 1952, the dairy was sold, and his family started Chief Alfa Inc. He and Norma spent many winters in Hawaii and Arizona. He was a charter member of the Grinnell Christian Church and he helped build the original worship and education buildings.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Norma Lang of Grinnell; his children, Steven (Charlotte) Lang, Broomfield, Colo., Deborah (Kurtis) Younkin of Ames, J. Ray (Phyllis) Lang, Janna (Marvin) Stoker, Jerry (Lorna) Lang, and Paul (Cathi) Lang, all of Grinnell; 24 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Eugene Lang of Grinnell, and John Lang of Traer; three sisters, Grace Davidson of Cedar Rapids, Jane Thompson of Grinnell, and Carol Shaner of St. Clair Shores, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Kathryn Larsen.

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Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning at 2 pm on Tuesday and the family will be present at the funeral home from 5 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday.

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