

John L. Morrissey, 83

John L. Morrissey, 83, of Montezuma, died Sunday, April 19, 2009. A private Requiem mass for Mr. Morrissey will be held at St. Mary's Church in Grinnell with Father Nick Adam as Celebrant. Burial with military rites will follow at Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma. Memorials may be made to the Montezuma Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Service, P.O. Box 246, Montezuma, IA 50171.

John L. Morrissey, the son of John "Jack" Francis and Alice Elvin Morrissey, was born Sept. 11, 1925, in Bloomington, Ill., at St. Joseph's Hospital. He attended Holy Trinity Grade School and High School in Bloomington and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, after graduating from high school. He served aboard the aircraft carrier US Core CVE-13 as an electrician in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters during World War II.

Following his discharge from the Navy after the war, he attended The University of Missouri-Columbia where he graduated in 1950, with a bachelor of journalism. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity — where he served as president, three of his four years at the university. He also served as sports editor of the college newspaper. There, he met his future wife, Jean Elizabeth Baker, of Blue Springs, Mo. They were married April 14, 1951, in Blue Springs. The couple lived in Denver, Colo., and then in Oklahoma City where Mr. Morrissey was employed as a landman for a major oil company, and then as an independent lease broker in the oil business.

Shortly before the collapse of the domestic oil industry, the Morrissey's purchased a weekly newspaper, *The Montezuma Republican*, in Montezuma, in 1964, which they owned and operated until retiring in 1990, after selling the business.

Mr. Morrissey was a member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and was named a Master Editor-Publisher by the association in 1978. He also served as a member of the State Advisory Committee to the Cooperative Extension Service, the Poweshiek Area Development Association (PAD), the Poweshiek County Foundation and the Montezuma City Council. Although in later years he did not vote the strict party ticket, he was at one time Republican County Chairman. He was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church of Grinnell, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion. Because of his wit and wisdom, he was a well-known, if reluctant, public speaker.

Survivors are his wife, Jean, of Montezuma; his sister, Mary Alice Morrissey of Moweaqua, Ill.; a daughter, Jean Bustos, of Montezuma, and her children, John and Polly; a son, Jack, and his wife, Colette, of Lenexa, Kan., and their children, Hank and Jake; and a daughter, Katie, and her husband, Charles Nold of Onaka, S.D., and their sons, Clint, Mark and Jack Nold; and a brother-in law and his wife, Robert and Jean Baker of Darien, Conn.

John was preceded in death by his parents; and a grandson, John Tyrell "J.T." Nold who died in 1987.

