

Ben Hearn Jr.



The Rev. Ben F. Hearn Jr., 78, of 631 Park St., Grinnell, died of a heart ailment Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Grinnell United Church of Christ - Congregational, with the Revs. Robert Molsberry and Scott Libbey officiating.

The body was donated to the University of Iowa College of Medicine. Burial will be at a later date at Fort Dodge Memorial Park. There will be no visitation. The Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

He was born Sept. 6, 1923, in Forney, Texas, to the Rev. Ben F. and Mary Jo Dietz Hearn. He was raised in various Texas communities and graduated from high school in Denison, Texas. He attended North Texas State University for one year, then served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, he returned to Texas and graduated from Texas Christian University with a B.A. degree. During his college years, he was a national debate champion.

On June 15, 1949, he was married to Barbara Jean Mundhenke at Fort Worth, Texas. They moved to Michigan and later to Chicago where Mr. Hearn attended Chicago Theological Seminary. The couple moved to Fort Dodge in 1964. From then until 1987, he served as minister of the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

While in Fort Dodge, he was active in the Democratic Party. He was past president of Friendship Haven Board, the North Central Iowa Mental Health Center, the Fort Dodge Interfaith Forum and the Fort Dodge Tennis Association. He was also a board member for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Hearn moved to Grinnell in 1987 and was chaplain of the Mayflower. He was a member of Rotary clubs in Fort Dodge and Grinnell and a member of the United Church of Christ - Congregational.

Surviving are his wife; one daughter, Nancy Jann of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two sons, Dave of Fort Dodge and Jim of Houston, Texas; and one brother, Joe Tom of Graham, Texas. His parents preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mayflower Human Needs Fund.

H-R November 5, 2001