

Robert R. Ray

Robert Russell Ray, 83, formerly of Grinnell, died Thursday, Sept. 14, at Life Care center in Longmont, Colo.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Del Dawes, pastor of the Grinnell United Methodist Church, officiating. Organist was Margaret Wheeler. Military rites were conducted by members of the Iowa National Guard and American Legion Post 681 of Conrad. Burial was in Conrad Cemetery.

The son of Dwight and Leota Ray, he was born May 27, 1917, in New Sharon. He lived in several Iowa communities, including Mingo and Conrad.

He served with the U.S. Army during World War II and was a prisoner of war in Northern Italy. He and several others escaped.

He was married to Julia Conrad July 5, 1945. They lived in Grinnell where he and Slim Flanagan ran a Skelly station and fuel oil business.

Mr. Ray later worked as a district manager for Hawkeye Steel Products of Waterloo. Until his retirement in 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Ray lived in Marion. They returned to Grinnell in 1980. They became residents of Oakview Nursing Home in Conrad in 1997. Following his wife's death, Mr. Conrad moved to Colorado to be close to his son.

He was a member of the VFW and the Elks Lodge, serving as exalted ruler.

Surviving are his son, Paul of Boulder, Colo.; two grandchildren, and two sisters, Donna Whitman and Helen Dykstra, both of Des Moines. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife and one sister, Marge.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell United Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

H-R September 18, 2000