Edd Bowers



Edd Bowers, 86, who divided his time between his homes in Grinnell and Rockport, Texas, died Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008, in Grapevine, Texas.

A service will be held Sunday, Sept. 28, at 4 .m. in Herrick Chapel at Grinnell College with a reception to follow in Grinnell House. In lieu of flowers, his family has requested gifts to the Eleanor Chleboun Bowers '42' and Edd W. Bowers '43 and '47 Teaching Scholarship at Grinnell College, Office of College and Alumni Relations, 733 Broad St., Grinnell IA 50112.

A native of Montezuma, Bowers entered Grinnell College with the class of 1943 although he did not graduate until 1947 because he served as an officer aboard a minesweeper during World War II.

After graduating from Grinnell with a degree in economics, Bowers earned a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He served as a high school coach in Mount Pleasant for nine years following his graduation from Grinnell. At Mount Pleasant he led the football team to an undefeated record. He went on to serve as athletic director and football coach at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant for four years before returning to Grinnell College in 1960 as head football coach. He continued to coach football at Grinnell College for 19 years as well as coaching golf and assisting in baseball, basketball and wrestling. He continued to coach golf until his retirement in 1992.

He was inducted into the Grinnell College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 as well as into the Iowa Wesleyan Hall of Fame. The Iowa chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame honored him in 2008 with its Distinguished Iowan Award.

He is survived by two daughters and one son, Cynthia Fulton, Deborah Johnson and Edd Bowers Jr.; six grand children and seven great grandchildren.