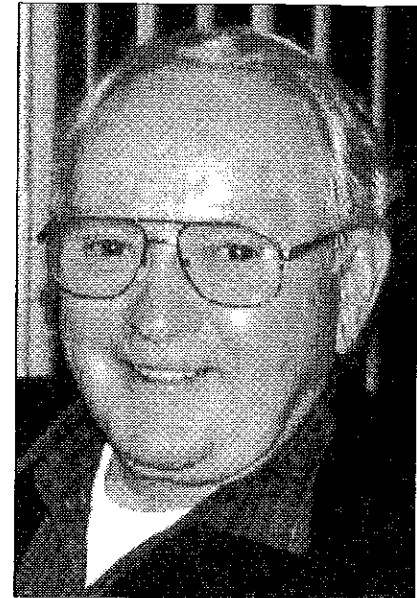


John 'Gene' Gritsch



John "Gene" Gritsch, 78, of Malcom, died on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011 at his home with his family at his side.

A celebration of his life was held 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 31, at Trinity Lutheran Church with the Rev. Kalen Barkholtz officiating. Casket bearers were David Anderson, Donald Cox, Clay Earhart, Clint Earhart, Brian Francies, and Chad Harter. Interment was at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to Trinity Lutheran Church, 3628 Highway 63, Malcom, Iowa 50157. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

John Eugene Gritsch was born on July 7, 1933 in Brooklyn, to Marvin and Mary Henry Gritsch. He attended country school and he graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1950.

Gene was united in marriage with Marlene Walker on June 6, 1953, at the United Methodist Church in Grinnell. The couple farmed all of their lives north of Malcom in Sheridan Township until his retirement in 2000.

Gene was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and Farm Bureau, and had served on the Poweshiek County Zoning Board. He enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events, as well as fishing, traveling, being with his family and friends, collecting John Deere tractors, and camping at the Iowa State Fair for the past 58 years.

Gene is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marlene E. Gritsch of Malcom; his daughters, Jo Cox of Wenatchee, Wash., and Lu Francies of Brooklyn; four grandchildren; and his sister, Norma Anderson of Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Gene Gritsch

Gene Gritsch, 78, of rural Malcom, died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011, at his home.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Malcom with burial in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning 12 noon on Tuesday and the family will be present at the funeral home from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Memorials may be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church.

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Gene was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and Farm Bureau. He had served on the Poweshiek County Zoning Board. Gene dearly loved his family and he enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events. His enjoyments were fishing, traveling, being with his family and friends, collecting John Deere tractors, and camping at the Iowa State Fair for the past 58 years.

Gene is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marlene E. Gritsch of Malcom; his daughters, Jo (Don) Cox of Wenatchee, Wash., and Lu (Brian) Francies of Brooklyn; four grandchildren, Chad and Tina Harter of Grinnell and Clay and Clint Earhart of Altoona; and his sister, Norma Anderson of Phoenix, Ariz. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother-in-law, Hal Anderson; and his niece, Celeste Anderson.



PCCR 9-7-2011

GHR 8-29-2011

GHR 9-1-2011