



Raymond McCreery

October 1, 1926 - June 7, 2013

Memorial Service: 1:00 P.M. June 13, 2013 at Fremont Funeral Chapel

Raymond L. McCreery, 86, passed away peacefully in the company of a close family member and lifelong friend at Good Samaritan Center of Ottumwa.

Ray grew up in small farming communities near Ottumwa and graduated from Hedrick High School in 1943. He obtained a degree in education from the University of Iowa and taught for a while in southeast Iowa school systems before serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Raymond married Francis Bernice Guthrie, a graduate of Fremont High School, and had their first son, Ronald, in 1951, while stationed at Lewis McChord Army Base in Tacoma, Wash. Two more sons would follow, Randall in 1954 and Rick in 1957. A career in insurance would require Ray and Bernie's young family to live at times in Decatur, Illinois., Peoria, Illinois., Royal Oak, Mich., and later returning to Illinois to live in Rockford and Freeport. When Ray and Bernie "retired," they opened a bed and breakfast in Lamoni and operated an

antiques shop at the same location. When their first grandson, Michael was born in Michigan, Ray and Bernie were there as returning residents to Traverse City, Mich. They loved square dancing, family cook-outs, lots of reading and doting on their grandson, Michael. Ray was always known as a "gentleman," an intelligent, generous, well-spoken person of integrity. He moved to Ottumwa to be closer to family and friends after the passing of his wife, Bernie, in July 2000.

Ray is survived by his three sons; a grandson; two sisters-in-law; three brothers-in-law; many nieces and nephews, their children and many friends in Michigan, Iowa and Illinois.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday at Fremont Funeral Chapel, Fremont. A luncheon will follow.

Memorial donations may be directed to Alzheimer's research for a cure.