

## **Robert “Bob” Armstrong**



Robert Armstrong Robert “Bob” Armstrong went to be with the Lord on March 22, 2010 after a sudden heart attack.

Bob was born March 9, 1933 in Des Moines to Lewis and Marie (Wagoner) Armstrong. He graduated from East High School in 1952 and was a First Lieutenant in the Army during the Korean War. Bob retired from the Des Moines Fire Department as fire chief in November of 1992 after 38 years of service. He was a Gideon and an amateur Ham radio operator. Bob’s greatest passion in life was being with his grandchildren who fondly called him “Faw”.

Bob is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn; son, Stephen Armstrong; daughter, Karen (Kristopher) Sommer; sisters, Maxine Douglas and Arlean Crum; brother, Jack Armstrong; and his beloved grandchildren, Jacob and Hannah; and many other extended relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Lewis.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 26, 2010 at First Assembly of God Church, 2725 Merle Hay Rd. followed by burial at Avon Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton’s Funeral Home, 605 Lyon Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gideons International or First Assembly of God Church.

[www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com)

### **Information from Des Moines Fire Department**

Robert V. Armstrong, Retired Chief of the Des Moines Fire Department, died this morning. Chief Armstrong joined the department on May 1, 1955 and was appointed Fire Chief on November 18, 1985. He protected his community until his retirement in 1993 after 38 years of service.

Chief Armstrong continued the work of his predecessor, Fire Chief Lee Williams, and his administration is credited with several advances in the capabilities of the department. In 1986, the Des Moines Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team became fully functional and would later grow into the regional deliverer of this service. It was during this time that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) grew in number of ambulances and the level of service was increased to being a full-time paramedic service. Chief Armstrong also changed the type and nature of uniforms that allow fire fighters to maintain safety levels while being more comfortable.

Chief Armstrong is survived by Carolyn Armstrong, his wife of 54 years, his daughter Karen Sommer, her husband Kristopher, and their children Jacob and Hannah, as well as the Chief’s son, Stephen Armstrong.

At the time of this writing, no funeral arrangements have been made. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Armstrong family and their friends and loved ones.