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Earl E. Lemke 6-13-2013



Earl E. Lemke, 70, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at his home.

A celebration of life gathering will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, in Buckley Hall of the Mayflower Community, 619 Park St., in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to the Earl E. Lemke Memorial Fund and mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Earl Elmer Lemke was born Sept. 8, 1942, in Grinnell to Donald Herman Lemke and Bertha Mary Belcher Lemke. He was raised and educated in Grinnell.

Following his education, he worked at Miracle Recreation in Grinnell for several years as a distributor who set playground equipment all over the United States. On May 15, 1982, he was united in marriage with Joan E. Mehlan at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell. The couple lived in Grinnell and he worked as a maintenance technician for the Grinnell High School until his retirement in 2004, and then he drove a school bus for the Grinnell schools until 2012.

He enjoyed tinkering on machinery and playing golf. One of his favorite jobs was driving a school bus and each year on the last day of school he would treat the kids to ice cream at the Dari Barn.

Earl is survived by his wife of 31 years, Joan Lemke of Grinnell; his children, Jackie Morrison of Cairo, Mo., Earl Lemke of Cairo, Cindi Boulton of Grinnell, Randy Durr of Omaha, Neb., Vicki Angel of Orient, Iowa, Terri Wayman of Grinnell, Becky Durr of Roland, Iowa, and Sondi Burnell of Grinnell; 21 grandchildren; 29 great grandchildren; and his brothers, Donald Lemke of Crowley, Texas, William Lemke of Safford, Ariz., and Gerald Lemke of Downing, Mo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Albert Lemke.