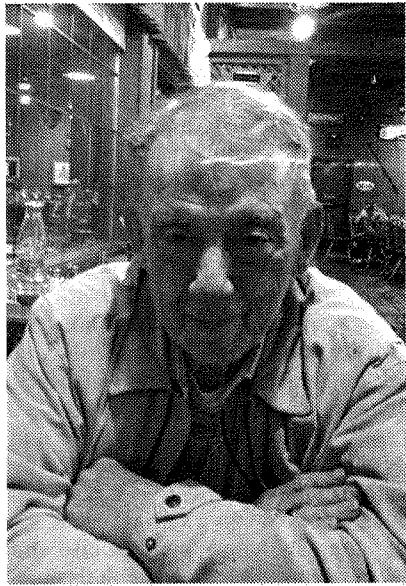


GHR, Mon. 9/16/24

William R. Ferguson



William R. "Bill" Ferguson, formerly of Grinnell, died Sept. 2, 2024, following a battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held on Sept. 21, 2024, in Lake View, Iowa, at the American Legion Hall at 1:30 p.m. The service will be officiated by his first-born, the Rev. Jeffery Ferguson.

The third child of Roy E. Ferguson and Mary E. G. Hartman Ferguson, Bill was born on Sept. 23, 1931, in Carroll, Iowa. He attended Lake View – Auburn Community Schools and graduated with the class of 1949. He then enrolled at Iowa State Teacher's College (now University of Northern Iowa) where he attended for two years.

In 1951, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving in Korea as a crypto analyst with the 15th Radio Squadron, Mobile. He was honorably discharged from service to his country in 1955. Upon returning to the United States, Bill enrolled at nearby Buena Vista College, in Storm Lake, where he received his Bachelor's degree in education (1957).

While at Buena Vista College, he

met and married his first wife, Patricia R. Golnitz Ferguson. They were married 19 years and they had two sons.

Bill continued his education at Colorado State College, completing his Master's degree in 1960. He dedicated his life to teaching until he retired in 1998.

Bill's career included working in the Forest City schools (1957 – 1960), West Monona Schools in Onawa (1960 – 1964), Grinnell – Newburg Community Schools (1964 – 1979), and Fort Dodge Community Schools (1982 – 1998). His areas of specialty were social studies, guidance counseling, and special education.

In 1979, he married Pamela Tuinstra Ferguson and adopted her daughter Julie as his own. His marriage to Pam lasted until early spring 2024 when Pam was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and died shortly thereafter.

Bill was a passionate sports advocate and spent several years coaching high school tennis and golf. His biggest impact was his dedication to officiating sports, such as football, basketball, baseball, and softball – often gone at least two nights per week officiating high school athletics.

He was always willing to talk with anyone who would give him the opportunity, a trait which served him well as an active member of clubs such as the American Legion, the Elks, and the Lions Club. When he wasn't teaching or active with one of these clubs, you could usually find him either on the golf course or fishing.

Bill is survived by his two sons and daughter, the Rev. Jeff Ferguson of Decatur, Ill., Mike Ferguson of Spencer, Okla., and Julie Safratowich of Minneapolis, Minn.; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, Charles E. Ferguson, and Mary Lou Borron, and wife, Pamela Tuinstra Ferguson.