Ronald J. Higgins, 64, of Grinnell, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Grinnell Health Care Center after a courageous battle with cancer.

As per his wishes, his body was cremated and no service will be held. Memorials may be designated to the Grinnell Regional Hospice, 106 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com. The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Grinnell Regional Hospice for their loving care and compassion during Ron’s illness.

Ron was born on September 28, 1946 in Denison, Iowa to George and Marjorie Belken Higgins. He was raised in Denison and he graduated from Denison High School with the class of 1964.

Following his education, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served during the Vietnam War on the USS Hasley, a surface ship, for two years and then on the USS Snook, a nuclear submarine, for four years.

Ron worked for Straus Lock in Des Moines from 1971 – 1986. In 1986, he and his brother Mark purchased Grinnell Safe and Lock and Ron was the area locksmith for nearly twenty-five years.

Ron’s enjoyments were hunting and fishing. He spent much of his time working on and hunting the recently purchased timber in Mahaska County near New Sharon. His favorite place to fish was on the Blue Earth River in Mankato, Minnesota, especially with his buddies, Kenny and Foost. He will be dearly missed by family and many friends.

Ron is survived by his siblings, Carol Mechura of Las Vegas, Nevada, Janet (Bruce) Brown of East Wenatchee, Washington, and Mark (Julia) Higgins of Newton, Iowa; seven nieces and nephews; several grandnieces and nephews, who he loved very much; and his loving companion, Koko the cat. Ron was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother-in-law, Joe Mechura.