Tom Hotchkin, 68

Tom Hotchkin, 68, of Grinnell, died April 15, 2012, at his home.

A graveside service and burial was held at 3 p.m., Thursday, April 19, at Chester Cemetery, north of Grinnell with Pastor John Epperson, Grinnell Christian Church, officiating.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Tom Hotchkin memorial fund to benefit the Grinnell Regional Hospice, Grinnell Christian Church and Soldier's Best Friend, an organization to provide therapeutic companion dogs for the United States military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). For more information, go to www.soldiersbestfriend.org.

Tom was born in Grinnell on April 28, 1943. The son of Gerald Michael and Martha “Dolly” Tamer Eames Hotchkin. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1961, as a veteran of the United States Army, he served in Vietnam with the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.

Tom was united in marriage to Marie Peak on April 10, 1965, at the First United Presbyterian Church in Grinnell. The couple lived in El Paso, Texas, where Tom was stationed; and later in Gilman and then Grinnell. Over the years he was employed with Wilcox-Garland Furniture Store, Iowa Southern Utilities, Chief Alfalfa and most recently Grinnell College in the facilities management department.

Tom has been a member of the Grinnell Christian Church, Jaycees, Grinnell Elks Lodge, and Vietnam Veterans of America and served 45 years as Commander of the Newburg American Legion Post #640.

Tom was very proud of his family and enjoyed dancing, camping, the outdoors, and his dog, Syd. He enjoyed polishing vehicles, woodworking, matting pictures, framing art, tinkering with just about anything and dancing.

Survivors include his wife, Marie; two children, Randy Hotchkin of Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, S.D., and Angie Hotchkin of New Sharon; two sisters, Maridean Tharp and Marty Meredith; one brother, Jim “Whitey” Hotchkin, all of Grinnell; and many other relatives and friends.

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