Dennis Kirby, 68, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012, at Grinnell Health Care Center.

A celebration of his life was held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Bonnie Koepken, pastor of the Malcom United Methodist Church, officiating. Pallbearers were Arnold Burggraf, Walid Johnson, Jr., Todd Conrad, Kevin Kirby, Tony Conrad and Brandon Rinehart. Honorary bearers were Craig Duncan, Ashley Rinehart and Walid Johnson, Sr.

Memories and condolences may be shared with his family at www.smithfh.com.

Dennis was born March 10, 1944, in Grinnell to Raymond and Elaine (Johnson) Kirby. He was raised in Malcom and graduated from Brooklyn-Grimes-Malcom High School with the class of 1962. He was united in marriage to Carol May Davison Feb. 9, 1973, at Hillside Church of Christ in Marshalltown. The couple made their home in Malcom, where they raised their four daughters, Cynthia, Debra, Amanda and Rachel.

Dennis worked at Fisher Controls in Marshalltown as a lathe machine operating specialist for 35 years, retiring in 1999. Dennis was an outdoorsman who loved to fish and hunt. He dearly loved his family and enjoyed taking his girls fishing at Diamond Lake near Montezuma and his grandson, Walid Johnson, Jr., was his pride and joy the last eleven years of his life. He was a farmer at heart that enjoyed living on a farm. In his youth, he was active in FFA and later raised Appaloosa horses and Seminole cattle. He then helped his daughters when they were active in 4H. His other enjoyments were helping Bob Slagle harvest his crop, gardening, and going on trips with his family. He recently took his last trip to see the ocean in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 39 years, Carol Kirby of Grinnell; his daughters, Cynthia Kirby of Des Moines, Debra Johnson of Chicago, Ill., Amanda Kirby of Iowa City, and Rachel Kirby of Grinnell; one grandson; and three siblings, Karen (Gerald) Duncan of Grinnell, Richard (Jasset) Kirby of Malcom, and Patricia (Mike) LaKose of Grabill, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his parents.