Jerry Doonan

Jerry Doonan, 77, of Grinnell, died Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, at University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015, in the Grinnell Middle School gymnasium. Interment will be at Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery in Brooklyn.

Visitation will begin at 12 noon on Sunday, March 1, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present to greet friends from 3 until 7 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Jerry L. Doonan Memorial Fund to benefit several Grinnell School organizations and can be 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.

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A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015, in the Grinnell Middle School gymnasium with Pastor John Epperson officiating. Interment will be at Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery in Brooklyn with the Rev. Kirsten Kiefer officiating. Pallbearers will be Jason and Rachel Wagner, Nicholas and Emily Wagner, Katelyn and Thomas Kelly, Rachel Bailey, and Chase Peyton.

Visitation will begin at 12 noon on Sunday, March 1, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present to greet friends from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Jerry L. Doonan Memorial Fund to benefit several Grinnell school organizations and the First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell. Memorials can be 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.

Jerry LaVerne Doonan was born on September 21, 1937, in Brooklyn, Iowa, to Sylvanus Samuel Doonan and Ferrell Allene (Keeney) Doonan. He was raised in Brooklyn and graduated from Brooklyn High School with the class of 1955. He attended the University of Iowa for one semester and then attended William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he played football, basketball, and golf and graduated in 1959 with a BA degree in Physical Education.

He was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Joyce Elaine Manatt, on August 4, 1957, at the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. The couple was blessed with two daughters, Jill and Jan. They resided in Oskaloosa for two years and moved to Norwalk, Iowa, in 1959, where Jerry taught school and coached football and girls basketball. In June of 1965, they moved to Grinnell and Jerry taught 7th grade Life Science at Grinnell Junior High School and then at Grinnell Middle School. He coached 9th-grade football for a short time and then moved to 8th-grade football and also coached Varsity boys golf. He taught Driver's Education for many years. He was an educator, coach, and mentor of 36 years to the many kids who were blessed to have him as a teacher and as a coach.

Jerry's family was his life. He dearly loved his grandchildren and always looked forward to attending their athletic and extracurricular activities. He got great joy facetiming and watching videos on his phone of his great grandson. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting, and golfing. He enjoyed spending his summers with his family at their cabin on Lake Winnibigoshish near Deer River, Minnesota. Many hours were spent playing cards and games and having snack time before bed.

Jerry is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife of 57 years, Joyce Doonan of Grinnell; two daughters, Jill (Paul) Wagner of Grinnell and Jan (Eric) Bailey of St. Cloud, MN; four grandchildren, Jason (Rachael Wagner) Bailey of Altoona, PA; Nicholas (Emily) Wagner of Grinnell; Katelyn (Thomas) Kelly of Clear Lake, MN, and Rachael (Chase Peyton) Bailey of Winona, MN; great grandson, Jaxon Wagner of Altoona, PA; brother, James (Sandra Chapin) Doonan of Mesa, AZ; stepbrothers, Dick (Linda) Lineweaver of Arnold Park, IA, and Ken (Fran) Lineweaver of San Antonio, TX; and step-sister, Beulah Buhrow of Laurel, IA. He was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Allene and Kenneth Lineweaver, his father and step-mother, Sylvanus and Edith Doonan; sister-in-law, Marjorie Doonan; and step-sister, Betty Lippincott.
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