William Eugene Smith, 78, of Barstow, Calif., and formerly of Brooklyn and Malcom, Iowa, died Monday, Jan. 26, 2015 at the Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Services will be held at a later date.

Bill was born on April 13, 1936, to Pearley and Bernice Story Smith in Montezuma. He was raised in Malcom and graduated from Malcom High School. Bill married Sammie Marie Myers on Jan. 1, 1962, and they had two daughters; the couple later divorced.


Bill served as a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy. He did two tours in Vietnam, receiving several awards including three good conduct medals, a combat action ribbon, a national defense medal, a Vietnam service medal, a Vietnam campaign medal, a meritorious unit citation and a Presidential unit citation. Bill retired from the Navy on Aug. 15, 1974. He was a member of the Pipefitters Plumbers Local Union 228 and the Malcom American Legion.

He enjoyed telling stories, music and his carpentry work. He was a collector of many things and always had an appetite for pastries. Bill always had time to fish and gamble, especially playing poker.

He is survived by his daughters, Teresa Simonson of Malcom and Paula Grinn of Brooklyn; two step-children, Lea Urry and Don Parke of Barstow, Calif.; seven grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and two brothers, Jim Smith of Story City, and Earl “Buzz” Smith of Marion.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his second wife, Dora; one sister, Darlene; three brothers, Jerry Smith, Keith Smith and Jack Smith; and one great granddaughter.