William C. Smith, 81, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, May 23, 2015, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with interment at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to the William C. Smith Memorial Fund to benefit organizations of the family’s choice and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Bill was born on Jan. 20, 1934, in Grinnell to Herbert and Faye Otto Smith. He attended Grinnell schools. Bill joined the United States Army on April 23, 1956. While back visiting his family, he met the love of his life, who lived just down the road and on July 18, 1958, he asked Dottie to marry him.

On Oct. 26, 1958, he married Dorothy J. Werts in Harlan, Iowa. He worked at various places before finding a position at Grinnell College in the facilities management department. Bill retired in 1998 after 36 years. Bill held a strong faith in God and hosted Thursday night prayer meeting at their home.

He was an avid fisherman and loved animals. His garden was always full of muskmelons. Bill enjoyed traveling and taking vacations down to Florida, visiting family along the way. You could often find him playing his harmonica, relaxing and enjoying life. He cherished his family and his church family.

Bill is survived by his wife of 56 years, Dorothy “Dottie” Smith of Grinnell; his daughter, Deb Hazelwood of Randolph, Wis.; his son, Randy Smith of Coralville; four grandchildren; one sister, Darlene Phillips of Hopedale, Ohio; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Herbert Smith, Jr. and Gene Smith.