Tom Stanford, age 66, of Grinnell died suddenly on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, in Grinnell doing what he loved best, helping out a neighbor.

As per his wishes a private Celebration of Life service was held at his home.

Memorials may be designated to the Tom Stanford Memorial Fund that will benefit several area organizations. Memorials can be mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com.

Tommy Clancy Stanford was born on September 29, 1948, in New Sharon, Iowa, to Ralph Stanford, Jr. and Nadine (Clancy) Stanford. He was raised on the family farm near Montezuma, Iowa, and he graduated from Montezuma High School in 1967. After high school he attended a trade school in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tom worked at Farmhand in Grinnell for 28 years and after Farmhand closed its doors he began working at Donaldson Corporation in Grinnell from 1995 until he was laid off. For the last several years he was a familiar face at Second Mile where he volunteered endless hours and found many a treasure for friends and family.

He was united in marriage to his beloved for over 25 years, JoAnn Margaret McCulley. Together they raised their grandson, Jonnie Rupe.

Tom was a family man, an outdoorsman and one who spent much of his life helping others in need. He thrived when he and his grandchildren were spending time together. Tom will be remembered for his loving and giving nature, telling stories, and for his love of animals, especially his rescue dog, Marley.

Tom was a hard-working man, always willing to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. He carried a small notebook in his pocket with anything someone needed, just in case it came into Second Mile.

Those left to treasure Tom’s memory are his wife, JoAnn Stanford of Grinnell; daughter, Carla Stanford (Doane) of New Sharon, Iowa; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and three siblings, Pam (Mike) Clements of Denton, Texas, Cathy (Keith) Keifer of Montezuma, Iowa, Chris (Nita) Stanford of Williamsburg, Iowa. Tom was preceded in death by his parents.