Gordon Eugene Gratton, 72, of Bondurant and formerly of Grinnell, died Thursday, June 9, 2016, after battling cancer for nearly a year.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 26, at the Des Moines Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2317 Waucoma Ave., Des Moines. Memorial contributions in his memory may be directed to the Bondurant Lions Club or Des Moines Adventist School.

Gordon Gratton passed away on June 9, 2016, after battling cancer for nearly a year.

Gordon was the son of the late Leland and Stephanie Gratton of Grinnell, Iowa, and was preceded in death by his brother Albert Gratton of Grinnell. He is survived by his wife Helen Gratton, sons Brian (Robin) Gratton and Howard (Jennifer) Gratton and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Worthen (Maretha) Gratton of Grinnell, Iowa, his sister Julie (T.J.) Colburn of Parkersburg, Iowa, and many nieces and nephews.

Gordon was a 1962 graduate of Grinnell High School and a 1967 graduate of Iowa State University. After graduation, he served his country in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea. He never stopped learning, frequently took continuing education classes and learned to fly an ultralight—his hobby enjoyed until he was too weak due to chemotherapy treatments. As a mechanical designer, he was sent all around the world. After retirement he continued to travel with his wife, and all told spent time in 25 countries.

He was a man of faith who believed in taking care of the land. On his farm north of Bondurant, he planted thousands of hardwood trees on portions of the land too hilly for crops, knowing they would not be harvested in his lifetime.

He was a member of the Des Moines Woodworkers Club and the Bondurant Lions Club, and as a Lions was awarded the Warren Coleman Honorary Award for volunteer service to the community and for his work in the prevention of blindness.

Gordon is survived by his wife Helen, sons Brian and Howard, five grandchildren, brother Worthen of Grinnell, and sister Julie Colburn of Parkersburg.