Doyle E. Burkett, 83

Doyle E. Burkett, 83, of Grinnell died January 25, 2017, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell. Funeral services, with military rites, were Monday, January 30th, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Rev. John Epperson officiating. Pallbearers were Marvin and William Burkett, Ryan Duncan, Mark Sanders, John Schultz and Kevin Schultz. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was held Sunday, January 29th, at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present Sunday afternoon.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Doyle Burkett Memorial Fund.

Doyle was born September 14, 1933, in Greenbrier, Arkansas, the son of Thermon and Bessie McGinty Burkett. He was raised in Greenbrier and attended school there. He joined the United States Army in 1953 and served in Korea. He was honorably discharged as a corporal in 1955.

On August 7, 1956, he was united in marriage with Norma Smith, in Clayton, New Mexico. The couple resided in Dumas, Texas for two years before moving to Grinnell in 1958. He was employed at the Grinnell Shoe Factory for several years and later owned and operated GFC Builders as a building contractor for over 50 years in the Grinnell area.

He was a member of the American Legion Post #53, VFW Stanley-Marchello Post #3932, Grinnell Elks Lodge #1266 and the Isaac Walton League.

Following the death of his wife, Norma on March 1, 2005, Doyle was united in marriage with Wanda Foster Neff on November 1, 2006, in Grinnell. The couple continued to make their home in Grinnell.

Doyle held an unconditional love for his family and was a devoted supporter of their well-being. He was very caring and good-hearted. He knew the value of hard work and was a man of integrity. He enjoyed going to the casinos and playing the slots, watching Wheel of Fortune and taking his boys hunting when they were younger. He never knew a stranger.

Doyle is survived by his wife, Wanda of Grinnell; two sons, Rick (Gigi) Burkett of Waukee and Neil Burkett of Grinnell; three grandchildren, Alissa Burkett of Anykenny, Brooke Burkett of Williamsburg and Bill (Mariah Throwbridge) Burkett of Johnston; four great-grandchildren, Alyssa Burkett, Madison Schmidt, Forrest Burkett and Frances Burkett; three step-children, Duane Neff of Grinnell, Richard Neff of St. Paul, Minnesota and Diane Schutz of Grinnell; eight step-grandchildren, Kerry Neff of Des Moines, Katie Offerman of Des Moines, Nicole Medin of Minneapolis, Abby Neff of Miami, Florida, John Schulte of Newton, Amanda Bergman of Toledo, Rachel Hall of Grinnell and Robert Frimmel of Johnston; 12 step-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Shelby and Gene Burkett, both of Grinnell; and three sisters, Gerri Sanders and Mattie Duncan, both of Grinnell and Glenda Heaslet of Conway, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Norma; his parents; two brothers, Dwight and Vance Burkett; one sister, Jennie Reed; and one step-daughter, Debra McClure.

Funeral services, with military rites, were scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 30, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Pallbearers were Marvin and William Burkett, Ryan Duncan, Mark Sanders, John Schultz and Kevin Schultz. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, January 29, at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present from 2:00 until 4:00 Sunday afternoon. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Doyle Burkett Memorial Fund.

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