Charles Leroy "Lee" Martin, 75, of Kirksville, Mo., and formerly of Grinnell, died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at his home after a two-year battle with cancer.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 7, in Kirksville.

He was born Feb. 18, 1941, in Moline, Ill., the son of Bill and Marguerite Case Martin. He was raised in Grinnell, graduating with the class of 1959. He later attended Northeast Missouri State, now known as Truman University, Kirksville, graduating in 1965. While there, he met Shirley James and they married May 19, 1962, in Grinnell.

Lee was a baptized member of the Jehovah's Witnesses and helped many congregations in the planning and building of Kingdom Hall buildings.

Lee worked in the insurance industry for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 10 years, then became owner of his own agency in Kirksville, known as Fringe Benefit Specialist.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Shirley; his two daughters, Lori Drennan of Kirksville and Lisa Lewman of Kansas City; four grandchildren; two great grandchildren; three sisters, Harriet Lincoln of Cando, N.D., Maria Crawford of Grinnell, and Billie Borch of Ankeny; and many other relations.

He was preceded in death by his parents.