Donald J. Shearer, 85, of Grinnell, died Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial gathering will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

Don was born on July 30, 1931, in Morland, Kan., to Ray and Mary Plumb Shearer. He was raised in Plainville, Kan., and attended public school there. Following his education he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and served in the Korean Conflict.

On Oct. 7, 1955, he was united in marriage with Phyllis Duncan and they had three children. He worked in the oil fields of Kansas before moving his family to Grinnell in May of 1966. Don worked for the Holland Plastics Company in Gilman, and later for the city of Grinnell as a building maintenance worker at the community center.

Don's passions were auto racing, riding his motorcycle and building model airplanes. He enjoyed building cars for racing in such events as NHRA drag races in Great Bend, Kan. Don and Phyllis enjoyed their annual trips to Sturgis, S.D., to the annual motorcycle rally, and trips throughout the United States, Canada and Alaska on their bikes.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Shearer of Grinnell; his children, Gaylin Duryee of Newton, and Lonie Shearer and Rick Shearer, both of Grinnell; five grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one half-sister; and two half-brothers.