Joseph 'Joe' Lee Henry

Joe began work at the Maytag Company in Newton and was selected to be a part of their Skilled Trades Program for four years. Upon completion, he worked in the Skilled Trades area as a machinist, retiring after 33 years in 2001. While at Maytag, he was a member and negotiator for the UAW Local 997. Joe loved football and had played semi-professional football for the Newton Nite Hawks. He also enjoyed playing cards.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Henry of Newton; son, John Henry of Oskaloosa; daughter, Jamie Jackson of Des Moines; four grandchildren; his brothers, Jim Henry and Dale Henry, both of Mansfield, Texas; sister, Patty VanTommé of Brooklyn; and many other relations.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Doris Henry Price; and his brother, Richard Henry.


A memorial service was held Saturday, May 20, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory. Memorials in Joe’s name may be left at the funeral home.

Joe, the son of Therald and Wilma Lane Henry, was born on Nov. 22, 1949, in Grinnell. He grew up in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1968. Following graduation, he served his country and was later honorably discharged from the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. On June 20, 1970, Joe was united in marriage with Helen Kriegel in Brooklyn. They had made their home in Newton for the last 44 years.