Jim Buffum

Jim Buffum, 65, of Grinnell, Iowa, died on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 22, 2017, at the Grinnell Christian Church with the Rev. John Eppeerson, Chaplain of Grinnell Regional Hospice, officiating. Casket Bearers will be Craig Arendt, John Grasenbach, Doug Jack, Dave Miller, Doug Moyer, Dennis Puls, Dennis Thompson, Jeff Vavreau, Al Burch, Laurel Ely, Al Fenner, Mike Gilbert, Dennis Hanmer, Donnie McDowell, John Thompson and Jerry Van Ersvelde. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Friends were invited to call at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2017, and with the family present at the funeral home from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Memorials may be directed to Project 3000 and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Jim was born on January 15, 1952, in Grinnell, Iowa, to Joseph and Gladys Slagle Buffum. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the Class of 1970.

On September 29, 1973, he was married to Connie Kriegl in Brooklyn, Iowa. The couple made their home in Grinnell, where he worked in the production center of Miracle Recreation. The Buffum family has operated the Bowldrome in Grinnell for over 50 years, and he purchased the business following his father’s death.

Jim was a lifetime member of the Grinnell Eagles Club #2545 and the Elk Lodge of Grinnell. He was a member of the Poweshiek County Bowling Association’s Hall of Fame and enjoyed hunting, golf leagues at Oakwood Acres and bowling in local, county, state and national bowling events. His achievements were recognized on “Let’s Go Bowling” television shows as a teen and scored a hole-in-one at Oakwood Acres Golf Course and bowled several perfect (300) games in his career.

Survivors include his wife, Connie Buffum of Grinnell; his children, Mike (Jackie) Kriegl and Troy Buffum of Grinnell and James Buffum of Des Moines; one granddaughter, Katelyn Kriegl of Grinnell and two sisters, Sue Buffum and Linda (Harry) Kingsley, all of Grinnell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Betty Jo Buffum and Becky Buffum; and one brother, Gary Wayne Buffum.