Russell Dale Winburn, 85, of Grinnell, died on Friday, July 21, 2017, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 27, 2017, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Allen Rick officiating. A luncheon will follow the service at the First Presbyterian Church. Interment will be held at the Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom.

Visitation began at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home. His family greeted friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Memorials may be designated to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com.

Russell Dale Winburn was born to Russell Verner and Mildred Violet (Liddick) Winburn on April 30, 1932, in a farmhouse one mile east of Grinnell. Russell had a younger brother Keith who died at the age of 22. Russell attended country schools in Grant Township near Grinnell and Pleasant Township near Ewart. He attended Montezuma High School and graduated with the class of 1949. He attended Iowa State University for one year.

Russell served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict (1952-54). He was stationed at a seaport in La Rochelle, France. Following his service in the Army, Russell returned to farm with his parents on their farm in Pleasant Township.

On September 10, 1960, he was united in marriage to Donna Marie Chamberlain of Monroe County at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell. Russell farmed in partnership with his parents from 1960 until 1966, when Russell Sr. retired. Russell and Donna continued the operation, farming full-time until Russell was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2002. He then continued to farm part-time with the help of his son, Russell Kent Winburn, until 2015. Cancer treatment resulted in remission for many years, but the cancer re-emerged in 2009. Russell received monthly chemotherapy treatment for the rest of his life.

Russell was a member of Iowa Farmers Union, the Elks Lodge of Grinnell, and the Poweshiek Masonic Lodge. He helped to build the Lily Lodge in Malcom in 1976. He was a member of the Ewart United Presbyterian Church, which closed in 2008. He was the first president of the Poweshiek County Cattlemen's Association and was a member of the American Angus Association. Russell served on the Malcom Coop Elevator board and as a Soil Conservation Commissioner.

Russ had a passion for airplanes. He shared ownership of a clubplane and learned to fly in the 1970s. The whole family enjoyed being a part of the Iowa Flying Farmers of Iowa. He also loved anything with wheels and owned numerous bicycles and motorcycles. He gave up riding motorcycles when he was diagnosed with cancer, but made a valiant attempt to go on a bike trip last summer at the age of 84. Fortunately, his son Aaron was nearby to rescue him.

As a young man, Russell had a great time racing a go-cart with other local buddies. His children enjoyed driving it once they came along. He attended the Indianapolis 500 for many years and in later years began traveling to more distant NASCAR races. Russell also enjoyed local stock car racing. He watched his son, Aaron, race in the front-wheel drive class for many years and he drove Aaron's backup car at the racetrack in Marshalltown part of one season. He was 70 years old at the time.

Russell is survived by his wife of 56 years, Donna Winburn of Grinnell, a daughter, Angela Winburn of Malcom; two sons, Russell Kent (Tammy) Winburn of Malcom, and Aaron Winburn, of Grinnell; nine grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.
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