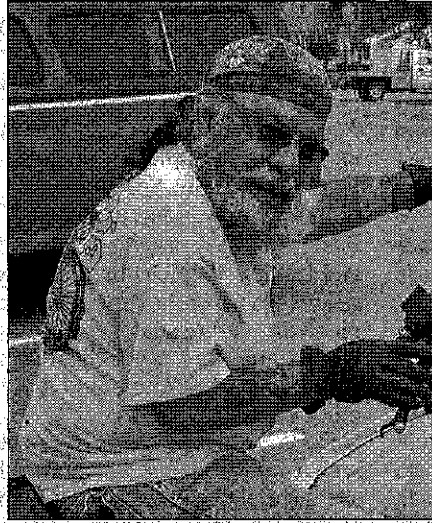


## Valentine 'Val' Gomez <sup>64-K</sup> 6-27-2019



Val Gomez, age 72 of Grinnell, died on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at his home.

A memorial gathering to honor his life will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2019, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. A celebration of his life with military honors will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Smith Funeral Home. A reception and continued fellowship will follow at the Eagles in Grinnell.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be designated to

the Valentine A. Gomez Memorial Fund, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Valentine Aguilar Gomez, Jr. was born the son of Valentine Fuentes Gomez, Sr. and Ruth Aguilar Gomez at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He was raised and educated in Texas. Val served his country in the United States Army becoming a drill sergeant during the Vietnam war, stationed in Korea, ending his military career as a Weekend Warrior at Camp Dodge.

He met Rose Cox in Florida in 1973. They were united in marriage June 8, 1974, residing in Perry, Iowa. They were blessed with a daughter, Jill. The marriage lasted six years. Val then met Peggy Whelchel and her four children, Jeremy, Jason, Jarrod, and Jennifer. They were married on June 26, 1982. He enjoyed the beautiful chaos of this time being a family of seven. Even though the marriage ended, the strong bonds continued. Val was employed during this time as a carpenter (part of Carpenters Union 106 for almost 30 years) and at Northern Natural Gas in Redfield, Iowa.

Val lived in Grinnell for several years and was employed at Jeld-Wen Doors before his retirement. His passion was riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his many good friends and for several years he looked forward to an annual trip to Sturgis. His other enjoyments were reading, watching movies, and being the socialite of Grinnell.

Val is survived by his daughter, Jill (Ryan) Witte of Urbandale, Iowa, and their children, Allie, Kyle and Elaina; step-children, Jeremy (Janelle) Whelchel, Jarrod Whelchel, Jennifer Whelchel, Linda Whelchel and 14 wonderful step-grandchildren; sister, Christine Littlepage of Texas and her son, Winston; brother, Steve (Toni) Gomez of Georgia and their son, Michael; close friends, Tom (Kim) Patten and Mike (Michele) Goben, and his many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and stepson, Jason Whelchel.