Tom Harris

Tom Harris, 79, of Grinnell, died Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019, at his home with his family by his side and under the care of UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Hospice.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 30, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment with military honors will be at Chester Cemetery north of Grinnell. Visitation will begin at 12 noon Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. His family will receive friends from 2 until 5 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Hospice, Grinnell United Methodist Church, Chester Cemetery Association, or to the Juvenile Diabetes Association, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Tom’s family online at www.smithfh.com.

Tom Harris was born on October 1, 1939, in Grinnell, Iowa, to Harvey and Margaret (Paak) Harris. He was raised near Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1958. He attended and played football at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Following his education, he honorably served his country in the United States Army Reserves.

Tom was united in marriage to Betty Jean Lamb on March 23, 1962, at the Sheridan United Methodist Church north of Grinnell. They were blessed with four children: Shelley, Kurt, William and David. The couple raised their family and owned on the family farm north of Grinnell in the Chester Township. Tom farmed the land and raised cattle for nearly 60 years. He was a great neighbor and was always there to lend a hand. He was a member of the Sonora Grange and was a life member of the Elks Lodge in Grinnell.

Family and farming were everything to Tom. He was very proud of his three children and dearly loved his nine grandchildren. He traveled near and far to support his grandchildren in their school and sports activities. He was an avid bowler and golfer and made many great friends doing so. Tom will be remembered for being very kind and fun-loving, as an avid and vocal Grinnell Tigers fan, for being a great friend to many, for being a proud Iowa farmer, and for the strong love of his family.