James L. Van Es, 56, of Grinnell died of amyloidosis Friday, April 21, 2006, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 26, at Grinnell Christian Church with John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiating. Casket bearers were Larry Bryan, Dr. Scott Jensen, Terry Miller, Matt Peiffer, Jim Othneil, Steve Schmidt, John R. Smith, Blaine Wells, Dwight (Bud) Pease, Galyn Goehlmann, Jill and Pete DeGroot, Doug and Karri Van Es, Andy DeWild and Dusty DeWild. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Grinnell Christian Church, Hope Ministries Door of Faith or KSKB Christian Radio and sent in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell IA 50112.

He was born Jan. 21, 1950, in Orange City to Arnold and Angeline Starkenburg Van Es. He was raised in Boyden and graduated from Boyden-Hull High School with the class of 1968. He received the bachelor of arts degree in physical education and mathematics from Northwestern College in Orange City, then later received the master of arts degree from St. Scholastica College in Duluth, Minn.

He was married on Oct. 28, 1972, to Phyllis Rachel Kreun in Chandler, Minn. Following their marriage they lived in Orange City while he student-taught in Sibley. They moved to Grinnell when he began his teaching and coaching career in the Lynnville-Sully School District. He later taught junior high mathematics and coached football and basketball in the Searson schools. In 1980 he managed Porter Recreation in Grinnell, then later worked for Marshalltown Office Supply and was a sales representative for Apple Computers. In mid-1980s he returned to education and currently taught eighth-grade mathematics at Berg Middle School in Newton where he also served as team leader.

He was a member of Grinnell Christian Church, and past president of the Grinnell Country Club and Grinnell Jaycees.

He will be remembered by many of his students as an excellent teacher, and was a passionate fan of the Oakland Raiders and San Francisco Giants.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Phyllis Van Es of Grinnell; his parents, Arnold and Angeline Van Es of Sheldon; one brother Duane Van Es of Boyden; one sister Brenda DeWild of Boyden and his father and mother-in-law, Henry and Ruby Kreun of Chandler, Minn. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Jenny Van Es, and John and Lydia Starkenburg.