

## Thomas Fitzgerald



Thomas J. Fitzgerald, 56, of 1810 Country Club Dr., Grinnell, died of cancer Friday, May 23, at his home.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Rev. William Reynolds, pastor of the church, and the Rev. Edmund Tiedeman, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mapleton, officiating. Music was provided by members of St. Mary's Choir and organist Kyle Szary.

Casket bearers were Al Burch, Ed Fenner, Joe Raffety, Mike Rhodes, Mike Richards and Gene Zell. Honorary bearers were Kaitlin, Levi and Lucas Bennington, Kyra Freeborn and Dustin Montgomery. Burial was in the Calvary section of Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Graveside rites were conducted by members of the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit.

Memorials may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice or the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

The son of John and Catherine Good O'Brien Fitzgerald, he was born June 13, 1940, at Fonda. He was raised in Fonda and graduated from Our lady of the Good Council School in 1958. Following high school he worked for the Morton Telephone Company and served in the U.S. Army. He received a B.A. degree from Upper Iowa College.

On June 13, 1964, he was married to LaVerda L. Schmidt at Blue Hill, Neb. He worked for Automatic Electric Company, and the family lived in California, Oregon, Texas and Missouri. From 1966 to 1969 he worked for the Central Telephone Company at Farmington, Minn. In 1969, the family moved to Grinnell where he worked in management and as a project coordinator for GTE. He retired in May 1993.

Mr. Fitzgerald was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and a former member of the Church Council. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Eagles Lodge, the America Legion and the Central Telephone Union, of which he was past president.

Surviving are his wife, three daughters, Annette Montgomery, Pam Bennington and Cindi Freeborn, all of Grinnell; five grandchildren; his parents; three sisters, Maureen Fitzgerald-Chinn and Cathy Lawyer, both of Carroll, and Mary Essing of Pomeroy; and five brothers, Bob of Maquoketa, Pat of Grinnell, Mark of Storm Lake, John of South Sioux City, Neb., and Ed of Rowley.

He was preceded in death by a brother.

15-2  
May 24, 1997