

Merle (Joe) Thomas

Merle (Joe) Thomas of Grinnell died Saturday at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines of injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident.

His body was cremated and graveside memorial services were held Tuesday afternoon at Booneville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Fisher Funeral Home of Van Meter was in charge of arrangements.

He was born Jan. 25, 1949, in Des Moines, the son of Raymond and Thelma Thomas. He was an accounting comptroller and a member of the Grinnell Elks Lodge and the American Legion. A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, he received seven medals including three Purple Hearts for injuries.

He is survived by his wife Sharon of Grinnell; two daughters, Anna Thomas of Denison and Kristen Thomas of Glenwood; two granddaughters; four brothers, George of New Albany, Tenn., Don of Leon, Jim of Grinnell, and Curt of Dunkerton, and one sister, Raeann Thomas of Van Meter. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Ross.