

Charles Gilliland, 73

Charles "Jake" Gilliland, 73, of Grinnell, died Sept. 1, 2009, at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

A graveside service and burial was held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 4, at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Pallbearers were Jim Haines and Gene Shook. Honorary bearers were Kristine Gilliland, Jake Olson, Kathy Kraninger, Michael Gilliland, Lainie Gilliland, Emily Gilliland, Steven Hodges, and Fenris.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Charles Gilliland Memorial Fund.

Charles was born on July 23, 1936, in Ewart, the son of Hugh Raymond and Mary Elizabeth Stull Gilliland, Sr. He received his education in the Grinnell School District. In August of 1954, he joined the United States Air Force and worked in communications abroad for several years. He was honorably discharged on Oct. 17, 1963. He then returned to Grinnell and drove a semi-trailer truck for Miracle Recreation Company for several years.

On April 13, 1968, he was united in marriage to Elaine Marie Shook, in Unionville, Mo., and the couple continued to live in Grinnell. He was employed at Donaldson Company in Grinnell for 28 years, retiring in 1998.

Charles was a member of the Grinnell American Legion and Color Guard, and was a former Cub Scout leader. He loved to go hunting, fishing, and camping with his family. He enjoyed playing fast-pitch softball and later slow-pitch softball, and bowling on a league team. He coached Little League and Pony League softball teams, taught martial arts, and worked for the American Red Cross where he taught CPR.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine of Grinnell; his children, Donald (Christina) Gilliland of Des Moines, Carla Kraninger of Des Moines, Charles Edwin (Jennifer) Gilliland of Eagle River, Alaska, Jodi Ramirez of Des Moines, and Michael Gilliland of Joplin, Mo.; one sister, Rose (Carl) Shockey of Grinnell; two brothers, John (Karol) Gilliland of Marshalltown, and William Gilliland of Grinnell; two sisters-in-law, Barbara Gilliland of Searsboro, and Bonnie Otto of Des Moines; a niece, Brandy Wilfong of Kansas City, Mo., who was very special to him; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son-in-law, Larry Kraninger; one grandson, Steven Scott Olson; one sister, Alice Johnson; and two brothers, Hugh "Bud" Gilliland, Jr. and Robert Gilliland.



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