



Dennis E. McIlrath, 60, of rural Grinnell, died Friday, March 14, 2014, at his home.

A memorial service was held Thursday, March 20, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment was at Prairie View Cemetery near Gilman.

Should friends desire, memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Dennis was born Nov. 2, 1953, in Grinnell, to Raymond and Alice Scofield McIlrath. He was raised in Grinnell and attended Grinnell schools. Following his education he served with the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany.

His companion for over 20 years was Diane Smith Emmert and they were married on Feb. 26, 2014, at their home. The couple lived in Sheridan Township and he worked as a heavy equipment operator and truck driver for many years. He also operated a metal salvage business.

Dennis enjoyed collecting antique cars and caring for his pet dogs and cats.

Survivors include his wife, Diane McIlrath of rural Grinnell; three step-children, Kara Emmert of Creston, Mandy Emmert of Newton and Tait Emmert of Grinnell; his mother, Alice McIlrath of Scanton; and one sister, Wendy Mount of Scranton. He was preceded in death by his father; two brothers, Bob and John McIlrath; and one sister, Norma Ryan.