

GRINNELL RESIDENT

# Richard Brignon, 77

PCCR  
3-29-2017



Richard Brignon, 77, Grinnell, died on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at St. Francis Manor in

Grinnell.

A funeral service was Friday, March 24, 2017, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with Pastor Dave Crow officiating and military honors provided by the Iowa Army National Guard. Interment followed at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the St. Francis Manor Foundation and mailed in care of the

Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with his family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Richard Lee Brignon was born on June 6, 1939, to Ernest and Mary (Turney) Brignon in Grinnell. He was raised near Searsboro and graduated from Searsboro High School with the class of 1959. On Dec. 4, 1965, he was united in marriage to Norma Lee Ceaser at the Sheridan United Methodist Church north of Grinnell. The couple was blessed with two daughters, Julie and Vickie, and raised their family in Grinnell.

Following graduation, Richard was a bricklayer on many different jobs

throughout the state of Iowa. He honorably served his country in the United States Army from 1962 until 1964 as a sharpshooter in the early Vietnam War period. He was honorably discharged and returned home. He continued working on masonry and construction projects until 1984. He then began a 25-year career as an over-the-road truck driver and retired from Crete Carrier Corporation of Lincoln, Nebraska, in April of 2009. He enjoyed traveling all over the United States driving truck and saw a lot of country, extended family, and friends, but dearly missed his family at home when he was gone.

Richard's family was his life. He was described by his family as being genuine, loyal, strict, and one who always provided for his family. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed pheasant and deer hunting, fishing, camping, and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. He and Norma greatly enjoyed spending time with friends and going to dances over the years. In the last few years, you could find Richard sitting on the couch with his computer on his lap connecting with friends and family on Facebook and through email, or his phone in his hand, calling a group of people to meet up for a monthly meal or coffee time, with a jar of peanut M&Ms by his side. He also enjoyed watching the Decorah eagles, traffic cameras, and riding out to the annual Sturgis, SD, rally on the Harley 19 times with a great group of people alongside. Richard will be remembered for his big smile, long stories, and a great love for his family and friends.

Richard was also a member of the IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows), the Elks Lodge, American Legion, and the Grinnell United Methodist Church.

Richard is survived by his wife of 51 years, Norma L. Brignon, Grinnell; two daughters, Julie (Eugene) VanErsvelde, Grinnell, and Vickie (Dan) Bogart, Waterloo; four grandchildren Josh (Rachel) VanErsvelde, Jason VanErsvelde, Kaitlyn (Clayton Beck) VanErsvelde, Grinnell, and Braley Bogart, Waterloo; and four great-grandchildren, Harper, Cash, and Witten VanErsvelde and Bentley Beck, Grinnell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his four siblings, Marion Covey, Beverly Davis, Gerald Brignon, and Ralph Brignon; many aunts and uncles; and a grandson, Brady Bogart in 2001.

## Richard Brignon

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A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, March 24, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment with military honors will follow the service at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home and his family will greet friends from 4 until 7 p.m.

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648 3-20-2017

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