

6H-R
1-22-2018

Gerald 'Jerry' Allen

Gerald "Jerry" Allen, 84, of Zephyrhills, Fla., and Grinnell, died Dec. 15, 2017.

Memorial is pending in the spring in Grinnell.

Gerald (Jerry) Allen

6H-R
5-3-2018

Gerald (Jerry) Allen, 84, of Grinnell, passed away Friday, December 15, 2017, at his winter home in Zephyrhills, Fla.

Jerry was born January 15, 1933, in Des Moines, Iowa, son of Homer and Grace Allen. He grew up in Grinnell and spent many summers working on his grandfather's farm near Booneville, Iowa. After graduation from Grinnell High School in 1950, he was a member of the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

Upon his return to Grinnell, he worked briefly for Maytag in Newton prior to marrying Nadine Pierce of Grinnell on September 15, 1957. The following year, he started his 31-year career with the U.S. Postal Service in Grinnell. He carried mail on foot for 17 years, making friends and acquaintances along his route. For the last 13 years of his career, he was a postal clerk at the Grinnell Post Office. Upon his retirement from the Postal Service, Jerry was a school bus driver for the Grinnell-Newburg School District, his friendly demeanor putting smiles on children's faces.

Jerry always had a love of sports, baseball in particular. He was a pitcher in the Grinnell summer softball league, coached youth baseball, and was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. In addition, he loved golfing, riding motorcycles and spending time with friends and family. More than anything, Jerry loved music. Listening to it, but even more so, playing music for other people. He had his own band for a number of years playing at various venues in Grinnell and surrounding communities. Singing for others put a smile on his face and was his true joy. During his later years, he took up fiddling, a tradition passed down from his grandmother and uncle. He was a member of the American Legion and a member of the Church of Christ in Grinnell.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Nadine Allen of Grinnell; three children, Barbara (David) Daniels of Kirksville, Mo., Ron (Marla) Allen of Iowa City, and Jerome Allen of Newton; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Nona (Bill) Johnson of Sun City, Ariz., and Juanita Prescott of Schenectady, N.Y. He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Grace Allen.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 12th at 11:00 a.m. at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Immediately after, the family will receive guests at a luncheon at the 4H Building on the Poweshiek County fairgrounds on East Street in Grinnell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Wounded Warriors Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

