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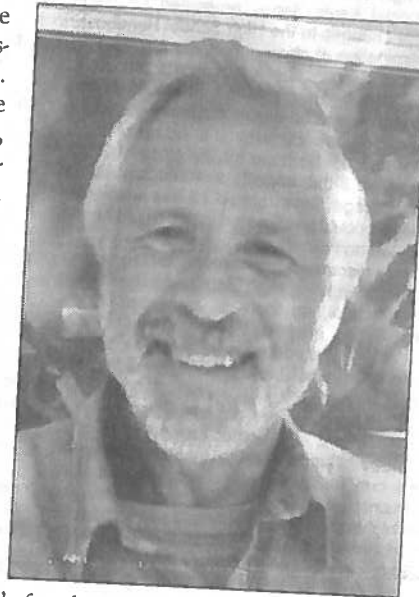
7-19-2018

Elliott L. Uhlenhopp

Elliott L. Uhlenhopp, age 75, of Grinnell, died on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at his home.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell with Pastor Kirsten Klepfer officiating. A reception will follow the service at the church. Interment will be held privately at Hampton Cemetery in Hampton, Iowa.

Memorials may be designated to the First Presbyterian Church or to Jasper County Conservation, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Elliott's family at www.smithfh.com.



Elliott Lee Uhlenhopp was born to Harvey and Elizabeth Uhlenhopp on December 8, 1942, and grew up in Hampton, Iowa. He was always a good student, going so far as teaching himself to type one summer. He was a well-rounded young man, playing trumpet in the school band, and running on the track team. He was the fifth generation of Elliott (his mother's maiden name) to graduate from Hampton High School, in 1961. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Carleton College. During his time at Carleton, he traveled abroad to India, a trip that instilled in him a lifelong love of traveling, and a lasting curiosity about the values and outlooks of different cultures. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Columbia University in New York City.

In 1966 he met Fran Gragg, whom he married in 1967. They had a son, Andrew, and then moved to San Diego, California where they had a daughter, Amy. He did post-doctorate work at the University of California San Diego, before moving to Walla Walla, Washington, where he became an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Whitman College. In 1977, he accepted a teaching position at Grinnell College, where he became a tenured Professor of Chemistry, and a highly respected faculty member. He retired in 1997. In 2008, the status of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry was bestowed upon him.

Fran and Elliott had parted ways in 1988, and in 2007 he married Gayle Light. Gayle and Elliott continued to live in Grinnell, and shared an enthusiasm for nature, traveling, and many other pursuits and interests too numerous to mention. He loved Iowa and was very glad to spend his life there with his beloved wife Gayle.

Elliott enjoyed nature, science, traveling anywhere he could think of, the arts, and his family, including all the dogs he had over the years. He was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell, where he sang in the choir, and over the years provided many a Christmas tree from his own farm. He remained active in the Grinnell College community. He valued education throughout his entire life, and always continued learning about various topics as diverse as politics and weather patterns.

He is survived by his wife Gayle; son Andrew and spouse Kelly; and daughter Amy and spouse Coleen. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Uhlenhopp. His legacy will live on at The Uhlenhopp Arboretum in Jasper County, Iowa, which will be a place for anyone to witness Elliott's fulfilled desire to leave the Earth a better place than he found it.

"The most important thing you leave are not family valuables, but family values. Love life. Be honest. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I can't think of any others more important than these." — Elliott Uhlenhopp