

## Walter Joseph Harris <sup>GH-R</sup> 7-22-2019

Walter Joseph Harris, 77, of rural Gilman, Iowa, died July 19, 2019, at his home under the care of UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Burial will be held at a later date at the Chester Cemetery, north of Grinnell, Iowa.

Walter was born December 15, 1941, at the Community Hospital in Grinnell, the son of Glenn and Madeline Lacina Harris. He was raised on a farm north of Grinnell, attended schools in Grinnell and was a member of the GHS Class of 1960. He was united in marriage to Sandra Thomazin February 18, 1961, at the Methodist Church, Lancaster, Missouri.

During part of his high school years he worked for Jake Barnes' Standard Gas Station in Grinnell, then for the DOT as a surveyor and began farming in 1963, retiring in 2018.

Walt enjoyed his many fraternal affiliations. He was a 52-year member and past master of the Herman Masonic Lodge #273 Grinnell; 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star and Past Patron of Beulah Chapter #47 of Grinnell, now a member of the Central Chapter #67 OES of Marshalltown; and past High Priest of the Palestine Chapter #143 Royal Arch Masons, Grinnell, and now member of the Gebel Chapter #2 R.A.M. of Newton. He was a 63-year member and past master of the Chester Royal Grange #2181 Grinnell, past treasurer of the Iowa State Grange and a member of the National Grange Youth Team in 1974. He and Sandra were the National Grange Young Couple in 1974.

What brought Walter great pleasure was his many canoe and fishing trips with his sons to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and Canada. He much enjoyed traveling, camping and card parties with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years; sons Chris (Jill) and Steve of Grinnell; granddaughter Becca Harris (Dave Maffett) of Denver, Colo., and grandson Jake Harris of Grinnell; a sister Norma Jones of Bettendorf, Iowa; sisters-in-law, Bonne Berry of Fallbrook, Calif., and Sharon Fleming of Mason City, Iowa; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his sons Jeffery in infancy and James in 2015; his parents; his sister Julia Conn in 2004; along with many close and dear loved ones.

Memorials can be designated to a GHS Band Student Scholarship in Walter's name; Chester Cemetery restoration projects; or Herman Masonic Lodge Building restoration projects.

