

Dwayne Kriegel

Dwayne Kriegel, 58, of Grinnell, died peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, at UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Grinnell Christian Church. Interment will be at Westfield Cemetery south of Grinnell. A reception will follow at the Eagles in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. His family will receive friends from 5 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be designated to the Dwayne Kriegel Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

GH-R 8-29-2019

Dwayne Kriegel GH-R 9-24-2019

Dwayne Kriegel, age 58, of Grinnell, died peacefully on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at UnityPoint Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

A celebration of his life was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 31, 2019, at the Grinnell Christian Church with Pastors Wes Key, Grinnell Church of Christ, and John Epperson, Grinnell Regional Hospice Chaplain, officiating. Pallbearers were Ron Horvath, John Hillier, Austin Roshek, Bryan Lemke, Dr. Ron Hauser, Tim Bowers, Steve Peters, Chris Varney and Dale Lohse. Honorary bearers were postal service employees. Interment was at Westfield Cemetery, south of Grinnell. A reception followed at the Eagles Club in Grinnell.



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Dwayne was born on May 12, 1961, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Francis "Larry" and Joyce Myers Kriegel. While his father served in the military, Dwayne grew up on several military bases around the world. He was a 1979 graduate of Aviano American High School, Aviano Air Base, Italy. Following high school, he made his home in Grinnell and soon after met the love of his life, Tammy See.

On October 17, 1981, he was united in marriage with Tammy at the Community Church in Gilman. A union of nearly 38 years! The couple raised their two children, Ashley and Kelley, in Grinnell.

Dwayne was employed with the United States Post Office in Grinnell for 34 years. He loved his work and considered being a postal carrier his dream job! For several nights a week he also loved working at the Candyland Station Soda Fountain in Grinnell, as well as running a limousine service for many years.

Dwayne held a strong love and devotion for his family and enjoyed spending his time with his grandchildren; who called him "Pops." He enjoyed meeting and conversing with people wherever he went, particularly with everyone on his mail route. Road trips with his family were always fun and adventurous; he looked forward to stopping at local "Ma & Pa" restaurants to visit and share a meal. Dwayne loved food, cooking and grilling and held a passion for golf and gardening. He canned much of his produce and often shared what he grew. He was very patriotic, a staunch Republican, and a huge fan of the Iowa State Cyclones and NASCAR; he followed the Earnhardt racing teams.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy of Grinnell; his daughter, Ashley (Chris) Diedrick of Humboldt; his son, Kelley Kriegel of Grinnell; three grandchildren, Hayden Kriegel and Danica & Jerrod Diedrick; his second set of parents, Doug and Roberta See of Grinnell; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Doug and Reyne See of Grinnell and Shelly and Mike Manly of Okoboji; his father, Larry Kriegel of Topeka, Kansas; two brothers, Larry Paul (Josey) Kriegel of Florida and Loren Kriegel of Kansas; two sisters, Kim (Keith) Nash of Tennessee and Dianna (Bob) Sims of Kansas; and many nieces, nephews, good friends and postal customers. He was preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Kriegel.

The Kriegel family is asking, as a gift, that everyone please sign up as an organ donor.

RINNELL -

PCCR 8-21-2019

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two children, Ashley and Kelley in Grinnell.

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Dwayne Kriegel gives gift of life to others in need

Residents throughout Grinnell have been distressed at the death of dedicated and respected mail carrier Dwayne Kriegel from anaphylactic shock caused by insect stings. Dwayne's wife, Tammy Kriegel, urges Grinnellians to become organ donors as Dwayne was and to avoid actions which attract wasps to front doors.

Dwayne Kriegel had worked for the postal service since June of 1985 in what Tammy says was Dwayne's "dream job," and the current route he was carrying "his dream route."

"He loved the out of doors. He was so excited when he got hired that we had a party. He encouraged everybody to go to work for the postal service," says Tammy, noting that Dwayne's was the longest of the five regular mail carrier routes in Grinnell and that the Kriegels' son, Kelly, also works for the postal service.

Residents appreciated Dwayne's

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dedication to carrying mail and left presents on their porches, bottles of water on hot days, hot chocolate during cold spells, and treats like candy or cookies. "Dwayne was always bringing home," Tammy says, adding that holidays always included gifts for Dwayne of baked goods from residents.

Dwayne several years ago developed an allergy to wasps and always carried with him an EpiPen with the antidote in a carrying case.

Dwayne was walking his route on Thursday, Aug. 22, when he was stung three and possibly four times on his right hand, likely by a wasp. Tammy explains that Dwayne must have tried to use the EpiPen because it was found on the ground beside him, still in its unopened carrying case. To use the pen, Tammy explains, he would have had to open the case, usually using two hands, remove the pen, twist a section to start it and stab it into his leg.

With his right hand swollen by the poison his body was reacting to, he pressed speed dial on his phone with his left hand to call Tammy and say "I got stung" and the word "Spencer" before he passed out. Tammy and others she alerted, including police, firefighters, other city workers, postal customers and people out walking their dogs converged on Spencer St. to look for Dwayne who had fallen behind a low wall which made him invisible from the street.

The residents noticed large numbers of people on the street, went to the front door, saw Dwayne and alerted searchers to his location. Tammy says at least 30 people moved to Dwayne who was put in an ambulance and life-flighted to Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. Dwayne was in a coma for five days and died on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Dwayne was committed to organ donation, Tammy says, telling anyone talking about renewing a driver's license to be sure to mark the "organ donor" choice. Members of their extended family had benefitted from organ donations by others, she says, and Dwayne regularly advocated that people choose donation as he did.

"He always said, 'If anything happens to me, give the gift of life to whoever you can. I'm not going to need those parts,'" Tammy recalls. "He gave many gifts to other families whose family members needed those gifts. We want to encourage everyone to sign up to be an organ donor and give the gift of life."

Tammy encourages home owners to take care with the kinds of plantings they place by entrance doors since some can attract wasps. Not only for mail carriers, she says, but for any guests, especially children, those tending to homes should do their best to keep wasps away from entrances.

"He loves people. He loved life. He loved his family, and he would not want anybody else's family to ever go through what we've been through," Tammy concludes. "And make sure you tell the people you love that you love them plenty of times because some day you may not have another chance to say it."



August 27, 2019

To our valued customers,

I am sorry to inform you of the passing of your letter carrier, Dwayne Kriegel, on August 27, 2019.

Dwayne suffered from a tragic medical incident while performing his delivery duties on August 22, 2019 and led to his death.

Visitation will be held on Friday 08/30/2019 from 5 to 8 PM at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell IA. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday 08/31/2019 at 1 PM at the Grinnell Christian Church located at 1331 Hobart St in Grinnell IA 50112.

Dwayne began his career with the Postal Service in 1986, and has been on the same route in Grinnell, IA for 30 years. He performed his duties with joy during his time at our office, and cared deeply for his customers.

Dwayne's presence will be profoundly missed by all his fellow co-workers and customers.

Your mail service will continue uninterrupted.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Reavis".

Amanda Reavis
Postmaster
Grinnell, IA