

64-R 12-16-2019
Gordon D. Sumner

Gordon D. Sumner, 63, of Grinnell died peacefully on Dec. 13, 2019, at his home.

Funeral services are set for 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Burial will be held

at a later date at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation with the family present will be held two hours prior to his service, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Gordon Sumner Memorial Fund.

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Funeral services are set for 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 21, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Dwight Kennedy, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Newton, officiating. Honorary bearers will be Jerome Allen, Jr., Mike Gross, Bob Penne, Kirby "Sky" Chriswell, Ed Hardman, Renee Slocum, Randy



Smith, Dustin Sumner, and John Sumner. Burial will be held at a later date at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation with the family present will be held two hours (1:00 to 3:00) prior to his service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Gordon Sumner Memorial Fund.

Gordon was born in 1956 in Wisconsin. He was a Midwestern boy with a rambling man's heart. From Missouri to Iowa, Colorado to Oregon, traveling the states with his acoustic six-string and a handful of talented friends, Gordon was known for saying, "I've lived one hell of a beautiful life. I have really lived."

Gordon's beautiful life included many hunting trips, riding his Harley, and enjoying sports. He played basketball, wrestled, and played football in high school. He loved animals, raising and training hunting dogs. His greatest love and passion was music: learning new songs by ear and forming several successful bands with his own brothers and friends that became family. Over the years, he entertained thousands with The Sumner Bros. Band, The Black Water Band, and The Cool Change Band to name a few. He was awarded Entertainer of the Year in Oregon. He has mastered many instruments, voice included. His labor of love was his gift, and he offered it for more than 40 years.

He was a proud papa and grandpa. His first marriage with Kim Flatten produced his daughter, and light of his life, Candice. His second marriage with Lorie (Queenie) Manning gave him his loyal son and sidekick Johnny D... who in turn gave him all his gray hair. The silver fox kept trotting, flashing his famous smile and twinkling eyes. He passed his love of music, good times with friends and charisma onto his kids, who were also his biggest fans.

He is survived by his two children, Candice D. Williams and her husband Jay of Newton and Johnny D. Sumner of Grinnell; five grandchildren, Kieran, Jacob, Nikki, Joshua, and Christian; his youngest brother, Joe Sumner and his wife, Janell of Grinnell; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Charlie and Billie Sumner (Grinnell); his older brother and his wife, Chuck and Mollie (Buff) Sumner (Kellogg); as well as his younger brother, Greg Sumner (Grinnell).

It's literally impossible to list all the friends who were as close as family. But you know who you are.