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Gerald Ernest Henschen

Gerald Ernest Henschen, 83, of Grinnell died on July 13, 2020, at his home of natural causes.

A public graveside service and burial is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 17, 2020, at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, rural Grinnell with the Rev. William Runaas, Jr., interim pastor St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell, officiating.

Memorial contributions may be designated to Pheasants Forever or St. John's Lutheran Church, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences

may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Jerry was born on September 12, 1936, in Dunbridge, Ohio, the son of Ernest and Erma Johnson Henschen. He was raised in Deshler, Ohio and was a 1954 graduate of Hoytville High School. He received an Associate of Accounting degree at Tiffin University, Tiffin, Ohio, and later a BA degree at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. Jerry was named Most Valuable Player in basketball his Senior year of high school.

On April 25, 1958, he was united in marriage to Oleva Lange, in Toledo, Ohio. The couple were married for over 30 years and raised three children together while living in Toledo. They divorced in 1990. He was later married to Lila Henschen.

Jerry was employed as a Senior Pricing Specialist for Owens Illinois Company in Toledo for 35 years. He retired on December 31, 1990. Jerry moved to Grinnell in 1991 and was employed for five years in the pricing department with Windsor Windows and Doors, a company headquartered in North Carolina.

Since 1991, Jerry had moved 21 times and enjoyed exploring communities near good pheasant hunting. Most recently, he had lived in Abilene, Kansas, and had returned to Grinnell in February, 2020.

Jerry was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, a life member of Pheasants Forever, and past president of Southside Sportsmen Club in Maumee, Ohio. For nine years he was a loyal volunteer at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, gardening, and woodworking. He had spent over 35 years pheasant hunting near Malcom and Huron, South Dakota. He loved training his hunting dogs and making friends with farmers whose fields he hunted.

Survivors include his children, Lisa Henschen of Palm Harbor, Florida, Amy Shoemaker Leavy of Abilene, Kansas, and Greg Henschen of Walbridge, Ohio; one brother, Bud (Martha) Henschen of Bowling Green, Ohio; three grandchildren, Meghan Henschen, Peter Shoemaker, and Daniel Shoemaker; and two great-grandchildren, Kennedy and Fiona Morey. He was preceded in death by his parents; both wives, Oleva Lange and Lila Henschen; and two siblings, Dallas (Joan) Henschen and Barbara Henschen.

