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Halsey Onthank



Halsey Onthank, 66, of Apache Junction, Ariz., formerly of Oskaloosa and Grinnell, died Nov. 28, 2020, in Apache Junction.

A public funeral service was held Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to ABATE 13 and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Halsey's family online at www.smithfh.com.

Halsey Paul Onthank was born on Aug. 27, 1954, in Grinnell, to Paul and Vivian Poots Onthank. He was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1972. He received a BA degree from Central College in Pella in 1976.

Following his college years, Halsey worked for Ziegler Construction in Oskaloosa, and later owned and operated Onthank's Motor Company, which began in Beacon and later moved to Oskaloosa. He retired in 2012 and became an Arizona snowbird.

Halsey held a passion for drag racing in his black '68 Nova with his "brother," Dan Marx. He was a founding member of ABATE District 13 and was an active member of the American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction. His enjoyments included riding his Harleys, going to garage sales with his fiancée, meeting new people wherever he went, and socializing with friends.

Halsey is survived by his fiancée, Vivian Reeves of Apache Junction, Ariz.; son, Chris Onthank of Mesa, Ariz.; two daughters, Stacey and Katie; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Marion Onthank.