

## James A. Swaney

James A. Swaney, 69, of Las Cruces, N.M., formerly of Grinnell, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2007.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Graham's Mortuary Chapel in Las Cruces. According to his wishes, his body was cremated. Memorials may be made to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association ([www.phassociation.org](http://www.phassociation.org)), the Caring Voice Coalition ([www.caringvoice.org](http://www.caringvoice.org)) or the American Lung Association ([www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)).

He began life on April 5, 1937, the son of George "Tete" and Lillian Swaney, on the Swaney Jersey Dairy near Grinnell, moving into Grinnell at the age of 12. He graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1955 and from Cornell College in Mount Vernon with the class of 1959. He loved sports and participated in basketball, football and track in high school and was a running back for his college football team. Following his graduation from college he served in the United States Army and the National Guard.

In 1962 he was united in marriage with Ruth Watson. They moved to Urbandale and became the parents of two children, and he also continued his participation in sports and coached his daughter's softball teams. He served on the Urbandale Parks and Recreation Commission during the 1970s where he helped develop men's and women's recreational and league sports and was instrumental in the beginning of bike trail development. During his tenure, many parks were acquired and developed including Walker Johnson Park, Murphy Park, Lakeview Park and Northview Park, and a swimming pool was planned, designed and constructed.

He worked in the computer field for John Deere for more than 15 years, then moved into the health-care industry. Moving to Boulder, Colo., in 1982, he worked for Syntex Pharmaceuticals, developing their computer departments. After moving to Chula Vista, Calif., he continued in the computing field, then moved into private business. His wife died in 1992.

He remarried and he and his wife Karen worked for a family business in Urbandale until his retirement and move to Las Cruces in 2000. He thoroughly enjoyed the area, the climate, people and culture, and following Iowa State and New Mexico State sports teams.

He is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Lisa of Omaha, Neb., his son Jim of Modesto, Calif., and a step-daughter Beth Coffey of Gloucester, Mass.

61-105-25,0007