

COMMUNITY MOURNS DEATH OF MASON SIECK

The community of Grinnell is mourning the death of Mason Sieck, 7, son of Curtis and Shanna Sieck.

Fairview Elementary School, where Mason was a student, will be closed on Friday, March 26, and Grinnell's other schools will dismiss two hours early that day to enable students and families to attend a funeral service to be held in the GHS auditorium. Please turn to page 5 for more information.

Mason A. Sieck

64-R
3-26-2021

On Monday, March 22, 2021, the angels led Mason Sieck, age 7, of Grinnell, to be with the Lord. He was being cared for by the nurses and staff at Crescent Cove Respite and Hospice Home for Kids in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2021, in the auditorium at the Grinnell High School with Pastor Phil Culham (Prairie Lakes Church in Grinnell) officiating. Those attending the service should park in the southwest parking lot located near the softball and baseball fields. A face mask will be required for those attending the service. The service will be live-streamed on the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page beginning at 1:45 p.m. A private family interment will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. A public reception will be held at the Grinnell Eagles on Friday beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Mason's family received friends at a visitation held from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Thursday, March 25, in the gymnasium at the Grinnell High School. Those attending the visitation were instructed to use the north or south activities doors on the west side of the school upon arrival. A face mask was required for those attending the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be designated to the Mighty Mason Fund, to benefit local organizations in his memory, and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com

Mason Allen Sieck was born the son of Curtis and Shanna (Elliott) Sieck on November 5, 2013, in Des Moines, Iowa. He was raised in Grinnell and was in the first grade at Fairview Elementary School.

Mason was an inspiration to his community, classmates, and all the lives he touched along his journey. He was wise beyond his age. When faced with challenges many would dwell on, he showed us how to be strong and fearless, to laugh, to never complain, and to enjoy the simple things in life. Mason held a strong love of his family and had a strong faith in the Lord. His aspiration was to be a Marine and a fireman: someone who fears no situation or evil and helps others in need. He will be remembered for his courage, for his heart-warming smile, for his quick wit and fun-loving personality, and for being an angel among us.

Mason is survived by his parents, Curtis and Shanna Sieck of Grinnell; siblings, Colton and Izzy of Grinnell; paternal grandparents, Scott and Kris Sieck of Grinnell; maternal grandparents, Dave and Vicky Elliott of Grinnell; paternal great grandparents, Lloyd and Shirley Sieck of Grinnell; maternal great grandparents, Evelyn Davis and Gene Elliott; several aunts and uncles; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his paternal great grandparents, Curt and Dee Johnson; maternal great grandmother, Norma Elliott; and maternal great grandfather, Howard Davis.



Mason Sieck

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3-31-2021

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Mason Sieck laid to rest wi

Honorary firefighter Mason Sieck, 7, was laid to rest on Friday, March 26, 2021, mourned by members of the Grinnell community, including 78 current and retired Grinnell firefighters and their families, 20 firefighters from neighboring departments, and staff and students of Fairview Elementary School.

Firefighters wore their full dress uniforms to the Friday afternoon funeral

service in the GHS auditorium where Mason's turnout gear and helmet were placed on his casket. Firefighters at the service formed an honor guard lining the route from the auditorium to Old Betsy, the fire department's antique 1913 LaFrance fire truck, to salute as the casket was carried to Old Betsy for Mason's final journey. Pallbearers included firefighters and members of Mason's family, and honorary pallbear-

ers were members of the eighth-grade basketball team, which includes Mason's brother Colton, and members of the Grinnell Fire Department.

Mason's casket was carried in Old Betsy in a procession from GHS to Hazelwood Cemetery which passed under the crossed ladders of fire trucks displaying a large American flag at the intersection of Fifth and Spring by the fire station. Retired firefighter Dave



Honorary Grinnell firefighter Mason Sieck loved his role in the fire department / Photo by Duane McClun

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ith firefighter honor guard

Byers drove Old Betsy, accompanied by retired firefighter Scott Schmidt in the passenger seat.

Standing on Old Betsy's rear platform was Mason's grandfather, firefighter Scott Sieck, flanked by Mason's great-uncles, firefighter Craig Sieck and retired firefighter Pat White. Mason's parents, firefighter Curtis Sieck and Shanna Sieck, followed Old Betsy in the procession.

The funeral procession was led by Grinnell Fire Chief Dan Sicard and included a school bus driven by retired firefighter Dave Thompson, filled with retired and current firefighters and their families.

At the cemetery, firefighters formed an honor guard lining the path from Old Betsy to the gravesite to give Mason a final salute. Firefighter Jed Petersen played the bagpipes during the inter-

ment service, and Schmidt rang a bell, traditional at burials of firefighters, taken from the era when ringing of a bell three times, then pausing, then ringing three times, then pausing, then ringing a final three times signaled to firefighters that a fire was out, now used to signify "end of service" at the burial of a firefighter.