

Duane M. Bissen,

66

April 6, 1951 - April 11, 2017

GRINNELL — Duane Marvin Bissen was born the son of Marvin Paul Bissen and Helen Margaret (Gross) Bissen on April 6, 1951, in Harlan. He was raised near Irwin on the family farm and graduated from Irwin High School with the class of 1969. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in business from Peru State College in Peru, NE.

On February 23, 1974, Duane was united in marriage to Sheryl Ann Gillespie at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. They were blessed with a daughter, Michelle and two sons, Scott and Craig. Duane was employed with Thorp Credit and the family resided in Red Oak, Oskaloosa, Boone, and Newton, respectively. In August of 1980, the family moved to Grinnell and Duane began his longtime career as an agent with American Family Insurance. After 36 years with American Family Insurance he retired on April 1, 2016. He held a strong faith and was a longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and served with the Knights of Columbus.

Duane held a strong love for his family and cherished every moment with his grandchildren. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Green Bay Packers football fan, and had been a member of the I-Club for over 10 years. He volunteered countless hours to better the community of Grinnell and St. Mary's Catholic Church. His enjoyments were spending time with his grandchildren, taking drives through the Rock Creek Lake area, deer hunting, and playing cards. He will be remembered for the love of his family, being a good steward of the community, and for his kind and caring way.

Duane died Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at his home.

Duane is survived by his wife of 43 years, Sheryl A. Bissen of Grinnell; daughter, Michelle (John) Adams of Superior, CO; two sons, Scott Bissen of Grinnell, and Craig (Tori) Bissen of Des Moines; seven grandchildren, Alyssa, Aiden and Bailey Adams, Brayden and Brielle Bissen, and Levia and Coen Bissen; father, Marvin Bissen of Harlan; siblings, Linda (Keith) Graeve of Elkhorn, NE, Pastor Connie Bissen of Omaha, NE, Dennis (Bonnie) Bissen of Kimballton, Nancy (Leo) Kochanowicz of Omaha, NE and Roger (DeaAnn) Bissen of Harlan. He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Bissen in 2015.

Mass of the Resurrection was held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with Fr. Ron Hodges presiding. Interment was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, April 17 at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and his family received friends from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., Monday evening. A scripture service was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday at the Smith Funeral Home.

Memorials may be designated to the St. Mary's Catholic Church Capital Campaign and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with his family online at www.smithfh.com.

