

George Graves, 66

Dec. 25, 1942 - Aug. 8, 2008

DES MOINES — George Christian Graves was born Dec. 25, 1942, to Jack and Rhoda Graves in Harlan. He attended country school, Center #5, rural Harlan and graduated from Harlan High School. During his school years he was very active in 4-H and served as Shelby County 4-H President. Following high school, he attended and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. He joined the Army and served his country in Vietnam.

George married Judy Hedgecock June 5, 1965, in Sioux Falls, SD. He was a charter member of the First Baptist Church in Harlan and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Des Moines. George taught school for one year. He then worked for John Deere & Company, Moline, IL, where he retired as Manager of Parts Operations for North America after 39 years of service. An avid cyclist, George participated in rides such as Cycle Oregon, Bike Wisconsin, TOMRV, and rode on trails in Des Moines and the Quad Cities. His enthusiasm for cycling was contagious. George loved bass fishing at his lake home on Lake 26 in Wisconsin where he spent many happy days with family. He cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren. He died Aug. 8, 2008 at Kavanagh House on 56th Street in Des Moines at age 66.

George was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Judy; his daughters, Elizabeth (Kurt) Gravley of Webster, SD; and Sarah (Mark) Garner of Des Moines; sister, Jane (Jim) Jensen of Harlan; brothers, Charles (Brenda) Graves of Wauwautosa, WI; Gary (Maria) Graves of Littleton, MA; and Eugene (Bev) Graves of Van Meter; four grandchildren, Chris, Michael, Katie and Christian; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Music Ministry, 600 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.



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