



Melvin Loren Erickson

Melvin Loren Erickson was born June 23, 1931, in Sturgis, SD, to Elmer H. and Bessie May (Smith) Erickson. He grew up and received his education in Sturgis. He also was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Mel served in the US Air Force during the Korean conflict.

Mel married LaVaughn Sudrala June 22, 1963, in Rapid City. They lived in Sturgis and Mel worked several places before accepting a position at Black Hills National Cemetery where he was the shop foreman and grounds keeper until he retired.

He was an all-around handyman and was hard-working. He enjoyed helping others with their projects. He loved to tease everyone and loved to laugh. Mel adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His face would light up when he saw them. He enjoyed talking about the weather and gas mileage. He was the best Dad and Papa you could ask for.

Melvin, 83, Sturgis, passed away Sunday, November 9, 2014, with his family at his side.

He is survived by his sons, Ed Sudrala, Vaughn (Debbie) Sudrala, Marshal Sudrala, and Kerry (Kim) Erickson; one daughter, Lisa (Ed) Hinker; grandchildren, Brandy Sudrala, Brian Sudrala, Amy Sudrala (fiancé, Tracy Veigel), Scott (Alison) Shaykett, Amanda Shaykett, Krista (Patrick) Shaykett-Nero, Brooke Erickson, Tioni Erickson, Erica (Ross) Bestgen, and Tyler Hinker; great-grandchildren, Leonardo, Willow, and Coral Nikkila, Rylen and Autumn Sudrala, Calvin Shaykett, Tyson Gonzales, Keigen Shaykett, Renley Shaykett-Nero, Kate, Tylee, and Ayla Bestgen, and soon baby boy Bestgen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Bessie Erickson; his wife, LaVaughn; daughter-in-law, Wanda Sudrala; brothers, Richard, Lloyd, Wayne, Wilbur, Carroll, and Raymond; and sisters, Edna and MaryLou.

A memorial has been established to the Sturgis Vet's Club.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



In Loving Memory Of



Melvin Loren Erickson

1931 ~ 2014

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the Sturgis Vet's Club following the committal service.

We thank you for your presence and condolences.

Love lif's oh
it sum tims
Love Lif's oh for evr

Love lif's oh
Love is sad sum tims
Love is that in you het
Love is hope

A Father's Farewell to His Children

*When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears,
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile:
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

Love Liv's
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In Loving Memory Of

Melvin Loren Erickson

Born

June 23, 1931
Sturgis, SD

Died

November 9, 2014
Rapid City, SD

Funeral Service

Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

Officiant ~ Pastor Harold Delbridge

Musicians

Lawren Erickson ~ John Culbertson

Musical Selections

"Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain"
"Why Me, Lord"

Pallbearers

Roy Erickson ~ Lawren Erickson ~ John Culbertson
Bobby Culbertson ~ Tyler Hinker ~ Brian Sudrala

Military Honors

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery