



Donald Ellis Schafer

Don Ellis Schafer was born June 30, 1948, in Phillip, SD, to Glen Schafer and Velma (Culver) Schafer. Don grew up in Phillip and graduated high school in Phillip, SD, where he married his high school sweetheart, Roxanne Radway.

They moved to Washington State where he worked as several different aircraft production positions, until being drafted into the U.S Army in July 1969. He was first sent to Germany, and then

he went straight to Vietnam where he served for 7 months as an aircraft engine mechanic. He then decided to join the SD Army National Guard where he worked part time in 1971 when he also worked for mobile home manufacturing. He was offered a full time position in 1972 with the SD National Guard at the Army Aviation Support Facility as an aircraft mechanic. He loved being in the guard, and being a mechanic. In 1997, he retired after 28 years of dedicated military service.

Don's hobbies included country western dancing, which he taught as well. He also loved to hunt and fish. He loved meeting with good friends for coffee in the morning. He really enjoyed wood working, welding, working on cars, and machinery work. He also enjoyed teaching his family members everything that he loved to do. He loved to work with his hands and often wanted to teach his grandkids and his own kids his knowledge of wood working and mechanics.

You could always find Don busy and hard at work on projects or helping friends/family out on just about everything. He was a very well respected man/father and grandfather and was loved by all that knew him. He was generous, kind and very caring, but most importantly very outgoing and personable. Don did a lot of volunteer work building wheel chair ramps for Metropolitan Lions Club of Rapid City, SD. He was a snow bird to Yuma, AZ, for many years and would leave SD in October and would return to SD in April where you could find him keeping busy and helping friends and family as always.

Donald, 67, Rapid City, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on March 8, 2016

Don is survived by his sister, Barbara Hocking of Rapid City, SD; his brother, Richard Schafer of Minneapolis, MN; son, Michael Schafer and wife, Jennifer, of Gardner, KS; daughter, Melanie Schafer of Rapid City, SD; and granddaughters, MysHa Schafer of Rapid City, SD, and Savannah Schafer of Gardner, KS.

Don was preceded in death by his much loved parents and sister, Nancy England.

He will truly be missed but always in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family is accepting donations to the Metropolitan Lions Club of Rapid City, SD.

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

In Loving Memory Of



Donald Ellis Schafer

1948 ~ 2016



John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.*



In Loving Memory Of

Donald Ellis Schafer

Born

June 30, 1948
Phillip, South Dakota

Died

March 8, 2016
Rapid City, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Friday, March 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Hermosa, South Dakota

Officiant ~ Pastor Deb Grismer

Pianist ~ Marie Kennedy

Soloist

Granddaughter – Savannah Schafer ~ "Hallelujah"

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone"
"You're My Best Friend"

Honorary Pallbearers

Douglas Mitchell ~ Ken Edel ~ David Konst
Michael Parsons ~ Harry Rencurel ~ Chuck Bowen

Military Honors

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota