



Ralph E. Soelzer

Ralph E. Soelzer was born in Sturgis, SD, on July 17, 1930. He was the son of Guido and Lois (McFarland) Soelzer. He attended rural school in Meade County and graduated from Sturgis High School in 1948. He attended South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City for one year and then graduated from SDSU in Brookings, SD.

Ralph farmed and ranched in south central Meade County. In 1965, he started teaching in rural schools in Meade County. After two years of teaching in the rural school, he taught sixth grade math and science in Sturgis. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1986.

After retirement, he and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Rapid City. They spent six months in Rapid City and six months in Mesa, AZ. Marilyn passed away in 1998. He married Joan Haley McDowell in 1999 at which time they moved to Spearfish, SD. They continued the South Dakota/Arizona life style.

Ralph maintained his interest in ranching his entire life. Leisure time was spent golfing, reading, dancing, and playing bridge.

Ralph, 84, Spearfish, died Saturday, April 4, 2015, at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Surviving are his wife, Joan, Spearfish; sister, Kathryn Reausaw, Spearfish; stepdaughter, Kristin Marshall, Tempe, AZ; nephews, Ron Soelzer and Una, Steve and Mary Soelzer, and Rick and Colleen Soelzer, all of Piedmont, SD; niece, Sherry and Dan Solberg, Alcester; nephews, Ralph and Carol Reausaw, and Bernie and Judy Reausaw, Lead; niece, Lois Ann and Curt Jacobs, Spearfish; stepsons, Mark and Sue McDowell, Colorado Springs, CO, and Bill and Nancy McDowell, Mission Viejo, CA; stepdaughter, Linda and Dick Homann, Fort Collins, CO. Other survivors include eight step grandchildren; two step great-grandchildren; and 18 great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn; his parents; and a brother, Frank. Also preceding him was a great-nephew, Chris Soelzer, killed in Iraq on Christmas Eve day, in 2003.

A memorial has been established to the Western Heritage Center in Spearfish.

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

In Loving Memory Of



Ralph E. Soelzer

1930 ~ 2015



My Spirit Soars

*Think of me walking
With my hand
in the Lord's.*

*Looking back every
now and then
watching over you.*

*And when you think of me,
my Spirit will
Soar through the Heavens'.*

In Loving Memory Of

Ralph Earl Soelzer

Born

July 17, 1930
Sturgis, South Dakota

Died

April 4, 2015
Rapid City, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Spearfish, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Stephan Sandness

Accompanist

Diane Bryan

Singers

Jill Homann
Eric Solberg ~ Nate Solberg

Musical Selections

"This Is My Father's World"
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
"Here I Am, Lord"
"I Can Only Imagine"

Honorary Pallbearers

All Family and Friends

Inurnment

Bear Butte Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota