

Thomas G. Murphy

In Loving Memory Of

Thomas G. Murphy, 71, Rapid City, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on July 16, 2014.

A memorial service will be held Monday, July 21, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at The Little White Church in Hill City with Julie Lantis officiating. The burial will follow at the Hill City Cemetery.

Thomas G. Murphy was born June 6, 1943, in Hot Springs, SD, to Thomas R. and Evelyn M. Murphy.

During the first twelve years of his life the family lived in Hot Springs and various military posts in the US as his father was a member of Hot Springs' Activated National Guard unit during the Korean War. In 1955, they moved to Hill City and operated Murphy's Texaco.

Tom graduated from Hill City high school. Following graduation he worked for Flyte Construction on the Minnekahta to Pringle road. His next job was in the uranium processing plant in Edgemont. When the mill was to close he took a job at Harvey's Texaco in Hot Springs as an island attendant and mechanic. Early in 1967, Tom started working for Terra Chemical in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. He worked there for five years as a plant operator. When the Gasification Plant in Rapid City started operations, Tom was one of the first operators on site. He was the one who locked the gates at the end of operations and turned the keys over to the new owners. He also worked at underground coal gasification sites in Rawlins, Wyoming, and Centralia, Washington. For a time he worked for Spiers Plumbing in Hill City, and later owned and operated Murphy's Plumbing in Hill City. He then began his twenty year employment with the state of South Dakota: first as the boiler operator and maintenance specialist at the State Veteran's Home in Hot Springs, then with the Department of Transportation as highway maintenance and snowplow operator in Hill City, and finally with the survey crew out of Custer. For the past fifteen years Tom has been the friendly face and hard-working back of Gordon Gulch, keeping things in the Mobile Home Park running smoothly as well as providing security and much of the daily maintenance for the recreational side of the property. Perhaps the job he enjoyed the most was driving the Hill City school activity bus. He always spoke of the wonderful kids and the good times he had with them going to and from games, on field trips and to other activities. The past four winters have been spent in Yuma, Arizona, enjoying the warmer weather.

Tom and his wife Karen celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in June.

Survivors include his wife, Karen; two children, Terry Murphy of Moorcroft, WY and Pamala Loudon of Spearfish, SD; five granddaughters; one grandson; and three great-grandchildren.

The family invites you to join them for fellowship in the church hall following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences. wishes to thank the wonderful people at Hospice of the Black Hills for the help and care they provided the past few months, Dr. Dzintars for his wonderful care of Tom, and all the friends and neighbors who have always been there for us. Thank you.

Cards may be sent to Karen Murphy 23775 Hwy 385 Rapid City, SD 57702

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



Thomas G. Murphy

1943 ~ 2014



*God saw he was getting tired
and a cure was not to be
So He put His arms around him
And whispered "come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer
And saw him fade away
Although we loved him dearly
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating
Hardworking hands to rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He takes the very best.*

In Loving Memory Of

Thomas G. Murphy

Born

June 6, 1943
Hot Springs, South Dakota

Died

July 16, 2014
Rapid City, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Monday, July 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
The Little White Church
Hill City, South Dakota

Spiritual Care Coordinator

Julie Lantis

Organist

Karen Kruse

Special Musical Selections

"Go Rest High On That Mountain"
"Amazing Grace"

Honorary Pallbearers

Mike Dale ~ Donavon Schoon ~ Ervin Peterson
Tom Phelps ~ Don Kraus ~ Gene Hudson

Inurnment

Hill City Cemetery
Hill City, South Dakota

Tom's last ride will be with long-time schoolmate and friend Ben Florian with whom Tom has Traveled Many Miles.

Having always said that he would be buried in a plain pine box, his box was built by Ervin Peterson using lumber cut from bug trees taken from the Murphy backyard.

Tom and Donavon Schoon have spent many hours chasing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, finding both nuggets and placer flakes as well as the gems of peace and tranquility

There will be a time of fellowship at the church following the committal