



Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr.

September 17, 1947 - September 29, 2020

Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr., 73, of Grand Island, entered Heaven's gates, on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at CHI Health-St. Francis.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM Friday, October 16th at St. Mary's Cathedral. Celebrating Mass will be Father James Golka and Priests of the Grand Island Diocese. To help protect others, facemasks are required.

Entombment of ashes will be in the Cedarview Cemetery near Doniphan.

Military honors will be rendered by the United Veterans Honor Guard and the U.S. Army.

Family will be greeting friends from 6-7 PM with a Vigil Service beginning at 7 PM on Thursday, October 15th at St. Mary's Cathedral. Memorials are suggested to St. Mary's Cathedral. All Faiths Funeral Home is serving the family.

Robert was born on September 17, 1947 at Pawnee City, NE. He was the oldest son of the late Emil and Josephine (Weber) Puhalla. He was raised on the family farm outside of Steinauer, Ne, and graduated from Table Rock Public High School in 1965.

Robert enlisted in the U.S. Army, received training as a Clinical Specialist Medic, and served one year in Vietnam in the 1st Cavalry Division as a 91C. Upon returning stateside he married the love of his life, the late Susan Jean Davis, on "the hottest day possible", July 12, 1969. They resided at Fort Bliss Army Base in El Paso, Texas until his discharge in 1970.

They returned to Nebraska and welcomed 3 very special children into their

lives, Keisha Anne (Tom) Mudloff, Robert Emil (Angela) Puhalla Jr. and Ann Marie (Carl) Pedersen. Robert treasured his children as much as they treasured him.

Robert had an unwavering faith in God. After many years in the computer programming field, he pursued his calling from the Lord to serve the church. He was ordained a Deacon in May 2010, at St. Mary's Cathedral, where he had been a member since 1980. After "retiring" in 2018, he dedicated over 40 hours a week to his faith. The community, the church, and the parishioners were very dear to Deacon Robert. Therefore, in lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to St. Mary's Cathedral in his memory.

Robert's other enjoyments in life included reading, dancing with his clogging dance group, time spent on the firing range, trying new recipes to share with his family and flying.

In addition to his children he is also survived by his siblings, Ronald (Beverly) Puhalla, Elaine (Arlyn) Parde, Evelyn Puhalla, and Emma (Rick) Penkava; grandchildren that he absolutely treasured, Caitlin (Chase), Shauna, Whitney, Alivia, Erin, Cerise and Matthew, and his beloved great-grandchildren, Jamesson, Khyreese, Landen, Sophia, and Serianne, as well as numerous other family members whom he loved dearly.

Cemetery Details

Cedarview Cemetery

Doniphan, NE

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Cathedral
112 S Cedar St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 384-2523

Tribute Wall



“ *Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr.*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM

LO

“ Sympathies to all of you kids and families in the painful, & expected loss of your dad and mom just 4 years ago. Now you indeed must feel like orphans. Bob had some good years ahead to enjoy his family and retirement. I am sure the Cathedral will miss his dedication.

I did let Fr. Bill Kalin in Lincoln know. He filled in a few years at St. Mary's and got to know dad.

He had many talents and was glad to share them. He worked over the years for his family and then his Church. Still amazed at his flying skills except the winds were the master in the on crack up mom and dad walked away from!

Always lamented us not meeting in Tay Ninh, Vietnam in Dec. 1968. He risked backlash from his 1st Cav. unit, but made the effort to fly to see me only to find me in Cu Chi with my clinic chief.

Did not know he carried his dad's name. I know the Good Lord will be kind and merciful to dad for all his love and works of charity over his 73 years.



Lawrence D. Obrist - October 15, 2020 at 12:42 AM

NS

“ NIFCO Mechanical Systems purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr..



NIFCO Mechanical Systems - October 14, 2020 at 09:45 AM

SE

“ Steve, Jan and Andrea Emal purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr..



Steve, Jan and Andrea Emal - October 13, 2020 at 07:08 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr..



October 13, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Robert Emil Puhalla Sr..



October 11, 2020 at 03:58 PM