

## Rod L. Shada

October 19, 1945 - June 25, 2017

Rod L. Shada, 71

Rod L. Shada, 71, of Grand Island succumbed to the ravages of pancreatic cancer and left his earthly home to be with his Heavenly Father on Sunday, June 25, 2017, with the help of friends and loving family members, he was able to penetrate numerous lines of this dreaded disease...particularly notable was the uncompromising care given to him by his wife, Marcia.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Grand Island. Reverend Bill Schroeder will officiate and eulogist, Daniel Naranjo. His procession to the Grand Island Cemetery will be led by a Corvette procession. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday at the St. Pauls Lutheran Church All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

“Do not go gentle into that good night. Old age should burn and rave at close of day; rage, rage against the dying of the light.” - Welch poet Dylan Thomas

Rod was born in Fremont, Nebraska on October 19, 1945 to George and Evelyn Shada. He spent his youth and young adulthood growing up in Fremont. He graduated from Fremont High School in 1963. While in high school, he was an outstanding athlete, earning All-State Honors in both football and wrestling.

After high school, he attended Midland College in Fremont, earning a B.S. in Education in 1967. While at Midland, he captained the wrestling team for four years. He impressively won ninety-five percent of his matches. Many victories were conference and invitational tournament championships. He also was the

editor of Midland's yearbook his senior year.

After college graduation, Rod accepted a position with the Grand Island Public School System. He remained at Grand Island Senior High for the next 39 years, 10 years as an English teacher and 29 years as a guidance counselor. He was the head wrestling coach from 1967-1980. His 1973 team won the Class A State Wrestling Championship.

When he wasn't coaching he lent his talents as a wrestling referee for over 40 years. Throughout his life and career in education Mr. Shada impacted many lives. He lived his life with passion and appreciation of others. His greatest treasures were faith, family and friends. "I love my life. I can't thank my Lord enough for my blessings. It's hard to leave something so good...like leaving a banana-split in the middle of it." For over 50 years he owned and operated a painting business during the summers. He worked alongside his son, Jeremy. He was an active member of the South Central Corvette Club; over the years he owned several Corvettes highlighted by his 1957 cascade green convertible.

Rod was inducted into the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 1984, and the Grand Island Senior High Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2015, he was chosen as a Legendary Educator for the Grand Island Public Schools System. He earned his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1972.

Rod is survived by his wife, Marcia; children, Nicole (Craig) Pruitt of Middletown, Rhode Island, Damon (Stacy) Shada and Brandon (Shannon) Shada of Grand Island, J.R. (Gyna) McFarland of Columbus, Jeremy (Heather) McFarland and Danielle (Sean) Bramble of Grand Island; grandchildren, Caleb, Makayla, Kaden, Kanyon, Brendon, Karsen, Gaven, Jaden, Jakson, Madison, Kennedy, Bodakai, Cash, Isabella, and great grandson, Easton; his sister, Marilyn (Keith) Bradsby of Houston, TX ; along with numerous extended family, past students and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant granddaughter, Reagan Ann.

In lieu of flowers a memorial fund will be established in memory of Rod.  
Online condolences may be sent to [www.giallfaiths.com](http://www.giallfaiths.com)

“One day we were born, one day we shall die, the same day, the same second...birth astride of a grave, the light gleams an instant, then its night once more.” - British poet Samuel Beckett.

# Cemetery Details

## Grand Island City Cemetery

Grand Island, NE

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
1515 South Harrison Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801

## Visitation

JUN **30**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
1515 South Harrison Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rod L. Shada*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *So happy I was able to visit with Rod at Senior High this spring, Rod was such a positive person! God bless cliff Jewell*

**Cliff Jewell** - June 30, 2017 at 07:56 PM



“ *wow, really sorry to hear, my fondest memory was not in school with him, but years later, I have talked with him many times about his cars and mostly about his Avanti, he drove my dads Avanti in 97 and with me in the back seat, he looked over at his wife and said, I need to get mine back, she responded, you do what you want, I like it, a very outstanding person, thank you for your time spent with all of us, rest in peace Mr Shada, you will be truly missed, Lyle Behrens and many other car guys, thanks*

**Lyle Behrens** - June 30, 2017 at 03:39 PM



“ *Marcia and family--I am so saddened to hear of Rod's passing. Such a kind and caring man. His support to our family when dad (John McMullen) was sick was such a comfort to us. I hope and pray that knowing others share your grief will ease the burden of your loss.*

*God bless you, Janet McMullen Schorfheide*

**Janet Schorfheide** - June 30, 2017 at 06:00 AM

B(

“ *Marcia and Family It was so great just knowing you, Ron was that twinkle in the sky to Heaven that will be truly missed. All my love and prayers to you Marcia and family with my deepest sympathy.*  
*Betty (Naranjo) Pinkerton.*



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**Betty J Pinkerton (Naranjo)** - June 29, 2017 at 09:49 PM

TB

“ *Marcia and Shada family. I'm thinking of you all and surrounding you in prayer during this most difficult time. I wish I could be there to celebrate the life of our beloved Rod. He was truly the greatest. Hug, love and light are being sent your way.*



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**Tanya Bell** - June 29, 2017 at 08:17 PM

SM

“ *Stan and Robin Motacek purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rod L. Shada.*



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**Stan and Robin Motacek** - June 29, 2017 at 11:24 AM

RM

“ *Robin Motacek lit a candle in memory of Rod L. Shada*



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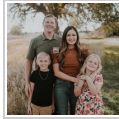
**Robin Motacek** - June 29, 2017 at 10:44 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kaytlyn Henson - June 29, 2017 at 09:10 AM



*Rod was more than a great neighbor and a great friend... we are blessed to have called him family. All our love to the Shada Family.*

Kaytlyn Henson - June 29, 2017 at 09:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.*



June 28, 2017 at 07:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.*



June 28, 2017 at 06:06 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.*



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June 28, 2017 at 03:51 PM



“ *As a member of the GHS wrestling team from 1968 to 1970, Coach Shada was a significant figure in my life. I thank him for all the work he did with me and for all the student lives he touched over the years. I am deeply saddened by his passing and wish his family my sincerest condolences. I will remember Coach Shada with great fondness.*

*Dan Greenberger, Class of 1970*

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**Dan Greenberger** - June 28, 2017 at 10:01 AM

RH

“ Rod Shada was a true quiet warrior, a kind giving spirit and friend to all who came his way. He showed we students what a book really had to say by digging into the core upon the written pages and as well what people everywhere had to show, share and give. He had such a sweet gentle laugh, a precious smile, and the ability to hold on while I and others like me (his never ending chatterbox students) ran off at the mouth while he was trying to reach us..... God knows what a joy having Rod home will be like, his family will know what it's like to miss a huge part of themselves and all of us will live on with memories of one fine gracious man who truly lived the good life by being so good n life. Thank You Father for Rod Shada and the time you gifted us to be with him AND Rod, Thank You for everything, especially our final phone call some years back when we simply shared life and it's lessons adult to adult, parent to parent and friend to friend. Be at peace. With Love, Rochelle Remy - Hodge

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**Rochelle Remy - Hodge** - June 28, 2017 at 01:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



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June 27, 2017 at 11:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



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June 27, 2017 at 08:24 PM

KV

“ Wrote about "walking" as the subject for "The Smithsonian"! My little article wasn't chosen. I wrote about walking past the house with my schnauzer in tow and viewing at least three Corvettes in the driveway all the time. I was amused by their license plates i.e., 2 2 MANY, WANT 57! I thought the late '70s pale blue "Vette was homely. Then out of the Shada driveway comes the Dog Mobile with Rod driving and a St. Bernard (Bernice?) in the back and an assortment of pekingese and a black poodle! I first met Rod when he painted my house about 24 yrs. ago. The house needs painting again but Rod is scheduled to be in one of his heavenly vehicles. The Avanti, maybe? Karen Vivian

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**Karen Vivian** - June 27, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



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June 27, 2017 at 05:00 PM

ML

“ Mr. Shada was my English teacher at GISH. I remember him as a gentle man with a stocky build, and a great smile. He was always very fair and encouraging. May he rest in peace.  
Meg (Opocensky) Loughran

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**Meg Loughran** - June 27, 2017 at 02:25 PM



“ I sit here with tears in my eyes trying to put my thoughts into words. I loved Shada (he was always just Shada to me) and the whole Shada family. I remember going over to the house, playing with the dogs, getting Nicole's hand me downs (which I always felt were super cool and stylish), having Marcia bake pizza rolls in the oven (somehow this blew my little kid mind and I thought they tasted ten times better), and of course watching all the boys wrestle. I loved sitting and listening to my dad, Shada, and his sons talk wrestling and tell jokes. I loved all the laughter and it made me feel part of a special family. As I grew older, I got Shada as a counselor at GISH. Sometimes I would leave class with the excuse that I needed to talk to the counselor and I would just hang out with Shada. Sitting and talking with him was better than class anytime! I will miss the feeling of love and acceptance I always got around him. It was like having an extra uncle that lived in town. My only regret is that my daughter will never get to meet or know Shada. Big hugs and love to the whole Shada family! Wish I could be there.

Lots of love,  
Nicole (Frohling) Eastman

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**Nicole Eastman** - June 27, 2017 at 02:09 PM

MC

“ Rod was the epitome of the term gentleman. I took a class with him many years ago, and I knew him as a wrestling official for decades. In that time I was always impressed by his friendly spirit and the genuine interest he showed in others. Even my athletes liked to have him officiate their matches and commented more than once that they trusted him to do the right thing. He was that kind of a man.

Please accept my deepest sympathy to all his family. He was something truly special.

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**Mark Coe** - June 27, 2017 at 01:28 PM

SS

“ Coach Shada, as he will always be to me, is one of the finest educators I ever had. I will always remember him as a gentle soul with a great ability to teach. My condolences to the family.

Stan Schwieger - June 27, 2017 at 12:23 PM



“ Great Father and a Great Man! Our sincerest condolences to Damon and Brandon and families! Rod had an incredible impact on so many. His legacy will continue to live on! God Bless!

Ken Ksiazek - June 27, 2017 at 12:16 PM

GJ

coach Shada wanted me to join the wrestling team in 1970, i didn't ,always regretted it ,he was a great guy always remembered him though.my thoughts and prayers go out to the Shada family r.i.p.Mr. Shada class of 72

Gary Johnson

Gary Johnson - June 27, 2017 at 06:58 PM

DS

Officiated wrestling with Rod for years. What a joy and a class act ! He was so encouraging on and off the mat. Visited with Rod in the last few weeks, as usual positive ,smiling. If you knew, Rod Shada. You loved Rod Shada ! You won the match of life my friend ! Dave Sayler

Dave Sayler - June 29, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



June 27, 2017 at 11:01 AM

WC

“ Really nice guy . very athletic memories from high school wes conklin

Wes conklin - June 27, 2017 at 10:56 AM



“ In 2010, I spoke with Mr. Rod Shada at an event honoring a mutual friend and colleague. I did not know it would be our last conversation. Discussions with this man were paramount. He truly used the spoken word to impact lives (and for this 15 year old who knew no one in a massive, unfamiliar high school, he became a life-line). So it's fitting that in our last conversation concerning the passing of our friend, it included his word-for-word citing of the last line of *The Great Gatsby*: “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.” Here is to an extraordinary educator and human who's lessons are ceaseless.

Chris Maly

Chris Maly - June 27, 2017 at 10:16 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



June 27, 2017 at 10:12 AM

MH

“ Rod was one of my favorite people when we on the G/IHS teaching staff. He always had good advice! Marilyn Huebner

Maarilyn Huebner - June 27, 2017 at 09:52 AM

DB

“ Coach Rod Shada was one of my heroes when I was growing up. He believed in me when I didn't. Coach Shada inspired me to do more and be better than I thought was possible. His life lessons are still with me today. Thank you Coach. Dick Beery (class of 1970).

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**Dick Beery** - June 27, 2017 at 08:43 AM

BC

“ Mr Shada is and will always be a great leader of the Grand Island community. I remember countless times going to Mr Morans office and hearing Mr Shada crack jokes across the hall. Even though I made frequent trips to the counseling office it was to always hear the latest jokes from him or to have him help me with a crazy situation. Everytime I would come back to visit I would ask how he is doing and very sad to hear the news of his passing I.

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**Brett Carruthers** - June 27, 2017 at 08:34 AM

DD

“ Marilyn and family, I was saddened to hear that Rod has passed. Growing up as neighbors in Fremont was the best! I had last been in touch with Rod about 25 years ago but still heard about his activities from time to time from Mr. Moran who taught with him in G.I. What a great person and I will always remember his sly smile.  
Don Dickmeyer

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**Don Dickmeyer** - June 27, 2017 at 07:33 AM

MH

“ Mr. Shada was not my high school guidance counselor but he greatly impacted my life. My father died when I was a junior at Grand Island Senior High. There was a health fair at school shortly after his death and Mr. Shada suggested I speak with Phyllis Swanson, a grief counselor, who was there for the fair. I wouldn't talk to anyone else about my father's passing but Phyllis got through to me. I have loved and respected Mr. Shada ever since. Thank you for everything!

Michele Hahn - June 27, 2017 at 06:14 AM

 MarknGinger Wobschall

“ Rest in peace, Mr Shada. He was the best! Always had an office to go to, an ear for listening and a shoulder to cry on. Really miss the McDonald breakfast runs. You will be missed.

MarknGinger Wobschall - June 27, 2017 at 06:05 AM

HO

“ Coach Shada always believed in me and taught me to never give up. He was one of the good ones.

Hoof - June 27, 2017 at 02:35 AM

KH

Mr. Shada was my mentors in life. I was a an counseling aide from 1993-1995. Because of him, I felt like I belonged. His compassion for kids was ongoing. Thank you Mr. Shada for being my rock. You truly were an inspiration and a legend. Oh captain, my captian. ♡ My thoughts and prayers are with his family and close ones at this time.

Katie Huebner-Johnson - June 27, 2017 at 09:17 AM

MS

“ To all Rod lovers: I first met Rod in 2nd grade at North Side Elementary in Fremont. We thoroughly enjoyed our time together making up rhymes about kids, teachers, and funny people. Rod was a very perceptive person from the start. He could pick up on the basic elements of most anyone and make them his friend. He was welcome in any group at school. He could see the positive essence of a person in a heartbeat. Too many memories to discuss details but Rod was one of those rare people that makes everyone around him a better person. I know each of you in the Shada family and his coaching and teaching world will share a bit of Rod through your lives as well. I cherish every moment we had together. Mike Sherer

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**Mike Sherer** - June 27, 2017 at 12:34 AM

GJ

“ Grand Island lost a pillar of strength with the passing of Rod Shada. He helped a lot of students at GISH. He will be missed. Our prayer are sent for Rod and the entire Shada family. May he rest in pease in the glory of God, Our Lord and Savior.

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**Gary Janulewicz** - June 26, 2017 at 11:40 PM

SH

“ Marilyn, although I never met your brother you lived him very much and that alone shows me what an amazing man he was. My heart is weeping with you my friend, but we must remember he got to go home! He is where we should be expectly waiting to go as he will be waiting there for you. I love you my friend. Shella Smith

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**shella** - June 26, 2017 at 11:24 PM

PC

“ So sorry for your loss Danielle and the rest of your family. You are all in my prayers.

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**Pati (Mumma) Carr** - June 26, 2017 at 10:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.*



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June 26, 2017 at 08:26 PM



“ *Mr. Shada told me after I had quit college in my freshman year that I would never go back. He knew exactly what to say to me. I did, AND graduated from law school and now practice child protection law in Houston. Loving what I do every day. He was an amazing man. I was blessed to know him. Prayers of comfort and peace for you all.*

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**DeDe Wilcoxson, Class of '83** - June 26, 2017 at 08:15 PM



“ *Thoughts and prayers for the family.*

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**Dennis Tagge** - June 26, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ *Rod was always one of my favorite extended cousins and I looked forward to seeing and talking with him at the many family reunions we attended over the years. He will be missed! Randy Sadd  
Waterloo, IA*

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**Randy Sadd** - June 26, 2017 at 07:10 PM

RJ

“ I have known Rod for about 30 years in the Paint world. He was such an amazing man. We always discussed the grandkids when we saw each other. He was so proud of them. A fond memory I have of him was that when he ordered painters pants from me....he'd always jokingly ask for 48 x 32's. He would wear his "paint" shoes proudly...About 90% duct tape. Always thinking of others too...always asked about my life...my career...my family. Heaven gained a great man. ❤️

Rona Jacobsen - June 26, 2017 at 06:59 PM



“ Mr. Shada was an inspiration and looked up to by many. I will never forget going to him for advice. You will be missed by many of us. R.I.P.

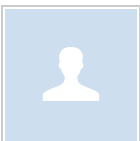


Tina Frakes - June 26, 2017 at 06:47 PM

MB

“ Rod has been friend to so many people, he was a member of our hamburger group and as will many, I will miss him dearly. MIKE Brewer

Mike Brewer - June 26, 2017 at 06:39 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rod L. Shada.



June 26, 2017 at 06:02 PM

Tina  
Miller-  
Klingerma

“ Prayers to all of his family. He was a wonderful educator! Will never forget him!

Tina Miller- Klingerman - June 26, 2017 at 05:21 PM

MM

“ I knew Rod when he was getting toward the end of his coaching and I was at the end of my high School Wrestling career. I got to know him a little bit better during his Wrestling officiating career. Rod was a class act on and off the mat. He will be missed! My condolences to Damon and the rest of the family. Rest in Peace my friend.

Mike Max - June 26, 2017 at 05:19 PM

JL

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Jim Lahowetz - June 26, 2017 at 04:47 PM

TH

“ He was my favorite counselor when i attended gish and he will be missed my condolences go out to his family

Tony harris - June 26, 2017 at 04:38 PM

VG

“ Rod was a classmate, not a personal friend, but was always seen with a smile on his face. I can't say I ever heard anyone say a discouraging word about him either. I posted a little video from our 50th class reunion on our Class Facebook page, and hope he is now "hand jiving" in Heaven! Rest in Peace, "brother" Rod.

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**Vern Greunke** - June 26, 2017 at 04:27 PM

BF

*Rod and I had a wonderful visit at the 50th reunion. He was a really good guy, and will be missed!*

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**barb fisher** - June 26, 2017 at 07:53 PM

ML

“ What a leader, friend, coach, brother, Dad, Rod, was to so many people. We lived in the neighborhood, from 1998-2004. We were honored to be bless as neighbors to the Shada family! Always welcomed, to share our Neighborhood weekly outing for dinner. Sharing Holiday gathering, with the Shada's, their lucky pets, and stories of Rod's Vet's were never forgotten. And FOOD, Rod, loved the food. I earned a spot on the Team! Rod would say eating was an indoor sport in Nebraska. Thanks, to Ms Marcia's loving arms keeping us all welcome and never hungry! Rod's the kind of guy I hope welcome's believer's to Heaven's door! I know the life He lived earned Him enteral life!

*Keep the Gates of Heaven, as shiny as your corvette!! Hope to see you there!*

*Mike & Donna Love*

*Mineola Texas*

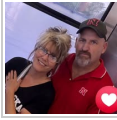
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**Mike Love** - June 26, 2017 at 04:19 PM

PN

“ Rod was like a brother to me and he will meet my husband Larry in heaven. We were all so lucky to have known him. RIP Rod. Love you ❤️

Paulette Nitz - June 26, 2017 at 03:12 PM



Sorry for your loss , Dannell Fegter-Runge, class of 84

Dannell Fegter-Runge - June 26, 2017 at 04:49 PM



So sorry to hear of Rods passing. He will be sorely missed by us and so many others. We were fortunate to at one time have had Rod and his lovely wife Marcia as our neighbors. They were the nicest people and so were their kids. We would often stop and talk to them while they were out walking their many dogs. Marcia would sometimes bring over slices of some of the most wonderful deserts to share with us. We loved having them as neighbors. Rod loved to talk about his Corvettes. He once paced off our garage and said he could get 6 corvettes in it. His own garage was a family and neighbor gathering point and looked like a drive in family room. During winter I would look out my window and there was Rod moving snow with his ATV from neighbors driveways in his shorts. Him and his wife often had block parties in his wonderful backyard. Our respect and love for Rod will never end.

Debra Christenson - June 26, 2017 at 07:22 PM

CN

Mr. Shada was my English teacher at Gish and he made it my favorite subject. He was always kind and made school a joy for his pupils. Later in life, I got to know him as Rod, a good customer of Ensley Electrical Services and he was such a joy to work with. He and his wife Marcia were wonderful customers and I'll never forget the way Marcia stood by him during his battle with cancer. Rest in peace now Rod. Your battle is over...my sincere sympathy to Marcia and his family.

Carol Ensley Nelson - June 27, 2017 at 08:43 AM

CM

So very sorry for your loss!

Cindy Mason - June 27, 2017 at 10:22 PM



*The ultimate Mr. Nice Guy. Rod and I stayed in touch off-and-on since high school, and his letters and phone calls always brightened my days. It has been an honor to call him my friend. It sounds like his has a whole army of us! -- Carol Evans Crupper*

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**Carol Crupper** - June 29, 2017 at 02:53 PM