



Teddy "Ted" Rookstool

December 4, 1941 - November 18, 2021

Teddy "Ted" Rookstool, 79, of Grand Island passed away on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

Teddy Oran Rookstool was born December 4, 1941, to Hubert (H.T.) and Mae (Coffman) Rookstool in Chariton, IA, growing up with five siblings predominantly in Custer County, NE and attended country schools before graduating from North Platte High School.

Ted, at 17 years old, took over the family general store with Mae also teaching school. While the family did not have much, they had each other. Ted never strayed from his roots as a man who would give up anything of his if it meant someone else was happy.

On May 2, 1966 he married Connie Barrett, the mother of his four children in North Platte. The family eventually moved to Grand Island, NE. When the marriage ended, Ted met the love of his life, Ginny O'Brien who also worked alongside Ted over the next 40 years.

Ted sold sewing machines door to door early on with his stores growing to eight locations by the 1970's before focusing his efforts on the Necchi Sewing Center in downtown Grand Island. He owned and operated T & R Distributing until 2003 where he began selling SUNHEAT heaters with the help of his family. Ted employed more than 40 direct family members through the years. Many friends, and friends of his children, originally employed by Ted went on to open their own businesses where Ted unselfishly helped them start

their own path, a defining characteristic anyone who knew Ted could attest to. In high school, Ted worked on and raced custom built hot rods. He enjoyed traveling, snowsking, waterskiing, flying his plane, watching Husker Football, being "Grandpa Ted" and his time with family and friends at the lake.

A simple man who worked hard and wanted the best for everyone, Ted never met a stranger and will forever be missed by those fortunate enough to have spent time with such a giving person.

He is survived by his children, James (Christy) Rookstool of Ft. Myers, FL, Jules (Scott Swann) Rookstool of Virginia Beach, VA, Jona Rookstool of Aurora, CO. and Josh Rookstool of Grand Island; love of his life and best friend, Ginny O'Brien of Grand Island; grandchildren, Lauren, Max, Rheyra, Sienna, Drew, Jaden (Alyssa), Alyssa, Shaleesa, Jezznia and Jaelee; Ginny's daughters that he treated as his own, Staci (Marty) Hargens of Cairo her children, Jenna and Abby, Kim

(Tim) Powers and children, Sydney, Samantha, and Logan; brothers, Kent and Chuck; sisters, Meryce (Terry), Una (Ron) and Pam; along with numerous nieces and nephews and friends that became family.

Ted was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers-in-law Bruce Clemmons and Raymond Lowder, and nephew Dusty Rookstool.

For those lucky enough to have ever had Ted make you laugh, please join us for a Celebration of Life gathering and a time of sharing stories and memories at 2 until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at All Faiths Funeral Home.

All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

NOV **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Teddy "Ted" Rookstool*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Maureen and I wanted to share our wonderful memories of Ted, Ginny and his children. When Josh hired me to represent Sunheat products in Michigan, the Rookstool family had no idea how often we would visit Grand Island, on our way from Michigan to visit family in Denver. But everytime we stopped we were welcomed with open arms. They even started to learn our names at the Saddle Club. Thank you Ted! His kindness and generosity was unmatched. We will miss you Ted.*

Jeff & Maureen Grey

Jeff Grey - November 26, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ *Jona and I have known one another since 2nd grade. It was only a matter of time when we were in high school that I'd eventually end up working for Ted. He was such a sweet and caring man. You will truly be missed. May you rest in paradise with those who have gone before you.*

Nikki Senephoumy-Long - November 24, 2021 at 04:00 PM

LM

“ Over 20 years ago I had the occasion to videotape the weddings of Ted's son as well as his daughter. I'll always remember how warm and loving the family was with one another welcoming and open to making firm ties with their new found family members. My wife and I traveled to the junta Colorado to participate in one wedding. It featured traditional food and a Mexican wedding dance. Attending that wedding and the time I spent with Ted's and his family are among some of my own favorite memories of the time I spent doing videography. My heartfelt condolences to all.

Lawrence Molczyk - November 24, 2021 at 12:13 PM

BZ

“ Jona and Josh, my heart and prayers go out to you at this difficult and sad time in your life.

Love Barb Prasch Zachmeyer

Barb Zachmeyer - November 24, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Teddy "Ted" Rookstool.



November 22, 2021 at 02:53 PM

LC

“ *Lloyd C. purchased the All Time Favorites Gift Box for the family of Teddy "Ted" Rookstool.*



Lloyd C. - November 22, 2021 at 10:29 AM

LC

“ *We are very sorry to hear about the death of Teddy and we are thinking of all the family members. You will always have the memories of all the good times you shared with him.*

*God Bless
Lloyd & Bonita Coffman*

Lloyd Coffman - November 22, 2021 at 10:16 AM