



Vernon (Smokey) Larson

September 25, 1928 - August 23, 2016

Vernon J (Smokey) Larson, 87, died peacefully August 23, 2016 in his home surrounded by family members.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday at All Faiths Funeral Home. Reverend Leslie Cole will officiate. Burial will be in the Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery with military honors rendered by the United Veterans Honor Guard and U.S. Army.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday at All Faiths Funeral Home.

Mr. Larson was born September 25, 1928 to Arthur and Magdalena Larson. He spent his childhood in Brayton, Nebraska joining the Army in 1953. He served two years deployed in Korea during the Korean War. During his time in service he rose to the position of Mess Sergeant and later on offered the position of head cook for the Russian Embassy.

After returning from the Army he began his career as an electrician in Columbus, Nebraska, later moving to Grand Island to work for Lawrence Electric. In 1965 he left and started his own business called Smokey's Electric (his nickname given by his brother when caught smoking a corn cob pipe behind a barn). He became an around town icon driving around in his truck proclaiming the slogan "let me fix your shorts". He spent over forty years in his chosen career creating lifelong ties with the community.

Smokey was not only a great electrician, he was also a fabulous cook. Almost every holiday and family get together everyone was privy to huge spreads of awesome home cooked meals, often offering up fares true to his Danish roots.

He was always known as a great cook, but his skill in baking pies surpassed even his best cooked meals. Many people were recipients of these wonderful pies and they will be greatly missed.

Vernon was a man of compassion, caring not only for his family, but for his extended family and friends. He showed so much love and caring for the elderly creating a band called Smokey's Band where he and his wife Karlene and a couple of friends played music for the elderly. It was a little rag tag band that brought joy to so many.

When looking back he will always be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and jokes, the joy he took in socializing with friends, the great holidays he created, being a surrogate father when one was needed, and his passion for life. He was actively involved in the Eagles, Isaak Walton and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Vernon will always be remembered for a big smile and a willingness to be there to help out whenever or wherever needed. He will be greatly missed by all. He is survived by his widow Karlene Larson; children, Kathy Higgins of Colorado Springs, CO, Janet and Dave Starkey of Phillips, NE, Larry Larson of Grand Island, NE, Cindy Springsteel of Grand Island, Vern and Kay Larson of Giltner, NE Jay Larson of Noblesville, IN a sister Dorothy Dugan of Arizona, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, one sister and his son David Pugh.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to either the Doniphan Senior Center of Evangelical Wesleyan Church in Grand Island.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Memorial Park

Grand Island, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Vernon (Smokey) Larson*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *You made strawberry rhubarb pie for my husband and the friends he took to mom and dad's when we getting them ready to move to Minnesota. The guys loved it. You and Marlene would have the folks over soup, pie and music. Dad even played his harmonica. This just made their day. Thank you for caring. Forever grateful Linda Cooper (Gene & Rosemary Campbell's daughter).*

Linda Cooper - August 28, 2016 at 06:09 PM

NM

“ I will never forget all the wonderful memories of Smokey and our family. Him and Karlene are part of our family and Smokey will truly be missed. All the times Smokey and Karlene would come to the farm to play cards (Pitch) with grandma and grandpa. He would always bring his homemade pies for us to enjoy. Then the hamburger nights at the Eagles where the Larsons and Rauerts would cook and serve the hamburgers was a great memory. Most of all from the time I was little he nicknamed me Nickernoski. I will never forget that and everytime I saw him he would call me that and would always give me a great big tight squeezing hug. Im so glad I was able to call the hospital last week and even though I couldnt talk to him they told him his Nickernoski called to check on him. I will never forget all the Times he would tell jokes and would have my grandparents laughing so hard until their side hurt and grandma and Karlene had tears. Beautiful memories for such a great man. Smokey you are loved and will truly be missed and I hope your in heaven playing pitch with grandpa Paul and my dad Gary.



Love to Karlene and family

Deepest condolences

Nicole Rauert Moore

Nicole Rauert Moore - August 27, 2016 at 11:11 AM

NM

“ I will always have such great memories of Smokey coming out with Karlene to the Rauert family farm to play cards with Grandpa Paul and Grandma Carroll. He would bring his homemade pies to the house for all of us to eat. All the times we went to hamburger week at the Eagles club and it would be our turn to cook, so the Larsons and Rauerts cooking and serving at the Eagles. Most of all my nickname he gave me and would always call me still to the day was "Nickernoski" so when he would see me I always got the biggest, tightest hug and he would ask me how Nickernoski was doing. Im so happy I got the chance to call the hospital last week and at least have them tell Smokey that his Nickernoski called him. He told my mom and grandma the very next day that I had called him. He and Karlene are just like family to us Rauert's. Smokey you will truly be missed by all of us. All the jokes and the hugs for sure. I will never forget the wonderful memories and all the times you would tell jokes and have my grandparents laughing until their sides hurt and grandma had tears. You were such a wonderful caring man, we love you and will miss you dearly. Hope your in heaven with my grandpa Paul and my dad Gary playing Pitch.

Love to Karlene and family,

Deepest condolences,

Nicole (Rauert) Moore

Nicole Rauert Moore - August 27, 2016 at 10:59 AM

MA

“ Larry and Family, We were sorry to hear of your Dads passing. Our sympathy to all of your family from the Gulzows, Luths, and the Biggers.



Marilyn/Ken - August 27, 2016 at 07:09 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon (Smokey) Larson.*



August 25, 2016 at 03:22 PM