



## Wayne "Red" Rakosky

May 12, 1926 - September 11, 2015

Wayne F. "Red" Rakosky, 89, of Grand Island passed away September 11, 2015 at home with his wife Barbara by his side. There will be a family private burial at a later time. Wayne was a member of St Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. All Faiths Funeral Home is serving the family.

Mr. Rakosky was born May 12, 1926 in Burwell, Nebraska to Frank and Freda (Rohde) Rakosky.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Barbara Rakosky of Grand Island; children, Cathy (Gary) Slater of Harvard, Carol (Dr. Dolf) Ichtertz of Grand Island, Steve (Barb) Rakosky of Hastings, and Alan (Deb) Rakosky of Grand Island.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Bobbi Jones and her children, Jenna SaBell and Chase Jones of Phoenix, AZ; Kevin (Jessica) Kuta and their children Colton and Nicole of Lincoln; Andrea Slater Gulley (Dr. Chris Gulley) of Amarillo TX; Kendra Rakosky and (Brandon Guthrie) of Omaha; Rachel Rakosky of Amarillo TX; and Alec Rakosky of Lincoln and brother-in-law, Ron Wells of Cotesfield.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Freda and son-in-law, Vernon Kuta.

Wayne grew up in Ord, NE, attending and graduating from Ord Public Schools. He grew up working with his dad, Frank, as a well driller. Wayne was united in marriage to Barbara Klanecky on October 10, 1953 in Ord. After his father retired in 1956, he took over the business, with his wife, Barb, as the office manager. Wayne became a state certified Water Well/ Pump Installation Contractor through the Nebraska Well Drillers Association and the DHHS and later achieved a Water Well/ Pump Installation State Supervisor Certification.

Wayne and Barb moved to Grand Island in 1966 and Wayne worked for New Holland until 1969. They moved to Loup City and Wayne re-continued his work as a well driller until 1979, before moving to Grand Island where he continued doing water wells. In 1986, Wayne returned to Ord, resuming his well work in his home town. Wayne moved back to Grand Island in 2002 and retired in 2006 at the age of 80 years.

Wayne was very dedicated to his profession and was always available to his customer's day or night regardless of the weather and even after his retirement was available for professional advice to his many customers that had become good friends.

Wayne and Barb spent several weeks, many winters in Mesa, Arizona, spending time with friends at several resorts. Wayne was a member of the Grand Island Saddle Club and the Platt-Duetsche. He also enjoyed many coffee and lunch groups including Skagway, McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Hy-Vee, and Pumpers.

His many accomplishments included taking flying lessons and achieving a private and recreational pilot license certificate. He also enjoyed air boating, fishing, and going to stock car races.

Wayne was a man of great character, who lived life to the fullest with love,

laughter, and so much strength. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends for making people happy with his great sense of humor and many practical jokes.

Memorials are suggested to the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ Wayne "Red" Rakosky

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ Barb and family . . . . this world has really lost a smile maker since Wayne is gone. My deepest sympathy to you and your family . . . I know there has to be a very big, quiet hole in your lives now. It was an honor and privilege to be able to know him for so long. I remember him doing things for my dad when I was a kid - he was the best. It was always such a joy to happen to see you somewhere - anywhere - because we always knew he would have that sense of humor primed (pardon the pun) and never did you come in contact with him without leaving with a smile. And he was blessed to have a life partner in you, Barb, who always had a sparkling smile and personality to match his. He will truly be missed by everyone he met.

You have been and will be in my thoughts and prayers that you might break into those smiles remembering the joy he spread. So many precious memories to reflect on.

May God bless you with his comfort, strength and peace as you adjust to this "new normal" as one friend calls it. Continue to carry on that beautiful twinkle in your eyes - I'm sure he'd want that.

Connie Sears  
Aurora, NE

Connie Sears - October 18, 2015 at 09:26 PM

AR

*Thank you Connie.*

*I spoke to mom and she was thrilled to read your message and said to give you her thanks also. Mom said, she and dad always enjoyed running into you and Gary when they were out and about and also said that dad always enjoyed "chatting" with your dad Al Radke when he stopped over. Mom asked me to wish you well and hopes she may run into you soon.*

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**Alan Rakosky** - October 26, 2015 at 09:02 PM

MK

“ *Dear Barbara and Family,*

*Was so sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. He will indeed be missed by many people, friends and family. I will always remember Jack saying how hard he and his dad worked to get our irrigation well. Have many pictures of this project. Also I was a neighbor here in Ord and I always told him well I liked his Santa Claus up on the second story roof. We also enjoyed his wonderful sense of humor.*

*Gold Bless you all at this most difficult time.*

*Mary Lu Koll*

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**Mary Lu Koll** - September 17, 2015 at 05:19 PM

AR

*Thank You Mary Lu! I showed mom your comment. She asked me to thank you and shared with me many of her memories of you and Jack.*

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**Alan Rakosky** - September 22, 2015 at 04:37 PM

KL

“ Alan and family, I offer our sympathy to your family on you loosing your father to the Lord. We are promised a better place, if we believe. You will miss him, I know you made a lot of memories with him, and from what I read in the bible, we will all get to meet again. Alan you have been so special to me for so many years, I have got to watch you grow up and I am so proud of you for so many things!!!! Jim and Kathy Leschinsky

Kathy Leschinsky - September 16, 2015 at 08:32 PM

AR

Thank you Kathy. That means so much to me. I was speaking of you the other day and hope you are doing well.

Alan Rakosky - September 22, 2015 at 04:39 PM

KL

“ Kathy Leschinsky lit a candle in memory of Wayne "Red" Rakosky



Kathy Leschinsky - September 16, 2015 at 08:23 PM

AR

“ Alan And Deb Rakosky lit a candle in memory of Wayne "Red" Rakosky



Alan and Deb Rakosky - September 16, 2015 at 11:24 AM