

The Life of Ralph Breitreutz

Services for Ralph Breitreutz, 85, of Spearfish and formerly of Groton, will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, February 23 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. The Rev. Matt Richards will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel from 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Ralph died February 18, 2015 at the Spearfish Hospital.

Ralph Dale Breitreutz was born to Alfred and Irene (Henry) Breitreutz in Dustin, Oklahoma on August 16, 1929. At the age of 2, the family moved to Groton, South Dakota. He graduated From Groton High School in 1947. Farming was his true passion in life and he took over the family farm in 1959.

He married Paula Jylynn Erdmann in Groton, South Dakota, on June 3, 1958. To this union, two children were born: Tamra Lee and Kalli Kay.



They lived on their farm northeast of Groton. They worked side by side on the farm and enjoyed many weekends at Pickeral Lake with friends and family. They enjoyed snowmobiling, card club, traveling, and were very involved with their children's school activities. In 1982, Paula passed away from cancer. He married Virginia Alexander on December 31, 1987. Ralph retired from farming in 1990 and they moved to reside at Mina Lake. They loved to travel and spent many winters in their motor home traveling throughout the United States. Alaska was one of their favorite vacation destinations having visited multiple times. In 1993, they moved to Chandler, Arizona, where they enjoyed living in a golf community. In 2008, they moved to Spearfish, South Dakota where he resided at the time of his death.

Ralph was very involved with the Northern Electric Cooperative and was recognized for his many years of distinguished service to the rural electrification program in September of 1985. He was a director from 1972-1975. From 1968 - 1984, Ralph was a member of the Groton Farmers Elevator board of directors He was a long-time member of the Groton United Methodist Church.

Ralph was preceded in death by his first wife, Paula, his parents, and his brother, Alfred Leonard.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his sister, Mary (Jeff) Loll; children, Tamra (Steve) Ward, Kalli Saland, Gloria (Dick) Pluimer, Gregg (Phyllis) Werger, Ginger Humprey, Gaylene Schwalen; grandchildren, Shaina (John) Rogers, Samantha Saland, Jenna (Matthew) King, Carly Ward, Jack Ward, Angela (Steph) Schukei, Lucas (Sarah) Schukei, Kade Welfl, Peter (Rachael) Pluimer, Chris (Shalan) Pluimer, Ben Pluimer, Boone Werger; great-grandchildren, Tyler Schold, Mason King, Landen Schukei; Nephew, David Loll, Niece, Laura (James) Lovato.

Casket bearers will be Steve Ward, David Loll, Dick Pluimer, Kade Welfl, Peter Pluimer, Gregg Werger, Jeff Howard and Dewayne Docken.

Memorials are preferred to Groton United Methodist Church, 906 North 1st Street, Groton, South Dakota, 57445.