

Richard Neil Dresbach, 70

Neil Dresbach, 70, Reno, Nev., went peacefully home to the Lord, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011, after losing his third bout with cancer.

He was born in Groton, SD, to Richard and Augusta Dresbach in 1941. Upon graduation from Groton High School, he attended North Dakota State School of Science.

Neil married to his best friend, Sonja. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church for 48 years, sang in the choir, and helped with maintenance of the church. He retired from Sears after 35 years as a Maintenance Engineer. Handy-man jobs followed the last several years. He was in the Air Force four years, serving at Stead Air Force Base, Reno, Nev.; Clark Air Force Base - Manilla, Phillipines; Nakhon Phanom, Thailand; and Vietnam. He was a member of VFW, SD American Legion Post #39.

His interest for Ham Radio began at age 10. WA7KCD became his call. He helped with many organizations, Comstock Amateur Radio Association, Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society, Wide Area Data Group, Truckee Meadows Amateur Radio Association, UNR radio Pack, Western Nevada Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Silver Circle Amateur Radio Society, Quarter Century Wireless Association, Vorra-Road Races, MS Bike-A-Thon, Triathlon, Special Olympics, Sierra Front-Volunteer Fire, Special Olympics, and Pony Express.

His second big interest was airplanes, which took him to the Reno National Championship Air Races, where he became a Pylon Judge for 33 years and was known as the "Golden Voice of the Air Races."

Neil is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sonja; one son, Michael Dresbach; one daughter, Kathryn Cunningham; five grandchildren, Britney, Chris, Arron, Tyler and Eli; four great grandchildren, Riley, Devin, Blake and Gauge; one brother, Steve Dresbach, and one sister, Rondi Utne.

He had a great love for the Lord and witnessed that by helping others and touching many lives along the way. His smile, his witty sense of humor and his quiet strength will be missed by many. A memorial service will be held 2 p.m., November 26, 2011 at Faith Lutheran Church, 2075 W. 7th St., Reno, NV 89503.

