

Former Groton Police Chief, Butch Radke, passes on



Services for Harlan "Butch" Radke, Jr., 62 of Groton, will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 1st at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams and William Paepke will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Butch passed away January 29, 2018 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Harlan Eugene, Jr. was born on October 29, 1955 in Aberdeen to Harlan and Thelma (Flint) Radke. He attended school in Groton, graduating in 1974. Butch united in marriage with Nancy Dobberpuhl on May 20, 1977 and together they were blessed with three children. Butch attended the Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre and served as an officer for 31 years. He was employed with the Brown County Sheriff's Office and Groton Police Department from 1977-2007. Radke served as Groton's Chief of Police from November 2004 and retired the same time as former Mayor Gerald Rix on May 1, 2007.

Butch was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. He was active on the Fire Board and Kiwanis. Butch enjoyed hunting, fishing and target shooting. He also loved spending time with his four grandchildren.

Celebrating his life is his wife of 40 years, Nancy of Groton, children; Michelle (Chad) Johnson of Groton, Kevin Radke of Groton, Lisa (Brent) Wienk of Milbank, four grandchildren, Brenna, Porter, Ava and Bradyn and his brothers, Tom (Barbara) Paepke of Groton and Rev. William (Audrey) Paepke of Piedmont.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his sister, Marlene Gilbertson.

Honorary Casketbearers will be all of his law enforcement and fireman friends.

Casketbearers will be Steve Tewksbury, Jerry Bjerke, Stacy Mayou, Justin Cleveland, Brian Koens, Ben Dolen and Eddy Nehls.