

The Life of Larry Allen Ragels

April 29, 1947- March 11, 2017



Larry Ragels passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, Denver, Colorado with his family by his side on March 11, 2017 after a several week struggle with pneumonia and complications.

Larry was born in Webster SD on April 29, 1947 to Chester and Grace (Molloy) Ragels, the sixth of six children. His first few years were on the family farm, and then in Groton SD where he completed all of his school years, graduating from Groton High School in 1965. After graduation he attended the University of South Dakota, but soon he joined the Army and served for a time in Vietnam. There he was wounded and spent several months in recuperation. He received the Purple Heart and was honorably discharged on March 1, 1974.

Larry and Sandra M. Soyer were married in Sioux Falls SD in April 1971. Regina Lea was born to them. They continued to reside in the Aberdeen area where in 1976 he received his Bachelor of Science Degree.

Following graduation he began his career of government service with a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In ensuing years he served in several government agencies in a variety of locations around the country. He retired in 2007 after holding the position of Regional Director with the United States Bureau of Reclamation in Lakewood, Colorado which has been his home since 2002.

Larry was united in marriage to Tetiana V. Kondratova in Golden Colorado on July 17, 2008.

Larry is survived by his wife, Tetiana V. Ragels, stepson Mykola Kondratov, daughter and son-in-law, Gina and Jim Penisten of Sioux Falls SD, Papa to Mary Grace, Bessie, Rosie, and Sojer Penisten, sister and brother-in-law Joyce and Michael Darling of Deadwood SD, sister-in-law Waneta Ragels of Rapid City SD, mother-in-law Nadezhda Moskelchenko, brother-in-law, Stanislav, and sister-in-law Margarita of Ukraine, and several cousins and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Grace Ragels, his brothers, Vance, Leonard, and Richard Ragels, and his sister Ramona Schinkel.

Larry greatly enjoyed his family. He and Tetiana always were welcoming hosts for visiting family and friends. He was devoted to Tetiana and of great assistance in making her and Kola feel at home in America. His dogs Vesta and Friia gave him much companionship and happiness. All of his life Larry remained a student with a variety of interests. He could not be found without several books and highlighters nearby. Following a bout with cancer in 2009, Larry's life changed to being more home bound than he might have liked. But he put that time to good use in his passion for research and writing which included his nearly complete book on methods of counteracting addiction.

He also spent time in meditation and contemplation on the meaning of existence, and living life to the best of one's potential. He carried on in that spirit despite the pain and limitations caused by the effects of his cancer treatments. His determination and courage was an inspiration.

A memorial service was held at Aspen Mortuary, 1350 Simms Street, Lakewood Colorado on March 15. Service at 10 followed by a time of sharing at 11.

Inurnment will be at Groton Union Cemetery, Groton SD at 1:00 on May 6, 2017 including the American Legion Post 39 Honor Guard. Friends and family are encouraged to attend.