

Keith Mortensen, 71

Feb. 3, 1944 - July 22, 2015

ELK HORN — Keith Edwin Mortensen "Butch" was born on February 3, 1944 to Andrew and Gladys (McCloskey) Mortensen in Mankato, MN, and was baptized at the Congregational Church in Pemberton, MN. He attended Pemberton Public School and graduated with the Class of 1962 from Waldorf High School.

In November of that year, Butch was united in marriage to Nancy Schull. They had two daughters: Robin and Patty. Keith worked with his dad in the plumbing and propane business while living in Minnesota, worked in a plumbing supply warehouse, and was an independent trucker for several years. In 1964, he was a charter member of the Pemberton Fire Department. After his retirement in 2006, he kept busy with his horses and four-wheelers. Keith always had horses and was happy to work with them whenever he was asked. The saddle on his casket was used to break his father-in-law Arnold Soll's palomino "Prince". The very next day, he rode Prince in the Tivoli parade in Elk Horn. He was a member of both the Audubon and Atlantic Saddle Clubs.

Butch was married to Ruth Ann Soll on February 14, 1996 in Las Vegas, NV, and welcomed Ronald, Steven, JoAnn, and Troy into his family. Butch died on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, having attained the age of seventy-one years, five months, and nineteen days.

Butch was preceded in death by his parents, sister Judy Mortensen, son-in-law Gregg Ginder, and brother-in-law Ronald Soll. He is survived by his wife Ruth Mortensen of Elk Horn; daughters: Robin Smith and Patty Ginder, and granddaughter Jordan Smith all of Fairhope, AL, and JoAnn and her husband Steve Brown of Elk Horn; sons: Ronald Smith and his wife Donna of Clarksville, TN, Steven Smith and his wife Cindy of Ricketts, and Troy Smith and his wife Laura also of Elk Horn; eleven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; sister Becky Pittman of Jamaica; brothers-in-law Dick Soll of Elk Horn, Bob Soll and his wife Darlene of Audubon, and Mick Soll and his wife Gloria of Harlan, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Pastor Steven Frock officiated the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Monday, July 27, 2015 at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan. Helen Warren accompanied vocalists Robin Smith and Ronald Smith. Serving as casket bearers were Eric Radebaugh, Alex Radebaugh, Dylan Soll, Daniel Brown, Tim McGuire, and Jacob Soll. Burial was held at the Shelby Cemetery in Shelby.



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