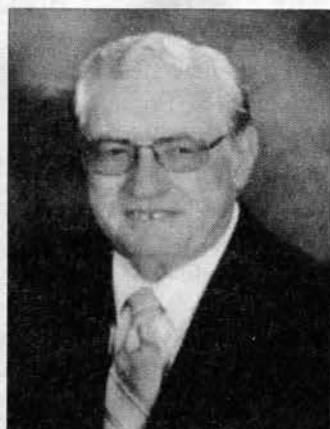


## Ronald Santema, 74

May 27, 1939 - March 2, 2014

**SUN CITY, AZ** — Ronald LeRoy Santema, or to his family, "The King", was born May 27, 1939 in Ireton to Peter and Viola (Hopp) Santema. He was baptized at The First Reformed Church in Ireton and later confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He attended Ireton schools graduating in 1957. He attended Westmar College in LeMars where he received his teaching degree in 1961. He went on to receive his Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD.



While at Westmar, his friends set him up on a blind date with the new grade school teacher in Ireton. He fell in love with that girl and married her, Charmaine Althea Gorseth, on August 12, 1961 at Trondhjem Lutheran Church in Irene, SD. After marriage, Ron and Charmaine both taught school in Irwin until 1970 when they moved to Sac City where he taught until 1973. That same year he became a District Representative for Aid Association for Lutheran's to allow Charmaine to stay at home with their daughters, Rachel and Charisse. Ron was a man of integrity and true honesty. He had a strong faith for "If the Lord is with me, who could be against me?" Making sure his family was happy, safe and well taken care of was of utmost importance to him. He also wanted to make sure other families were also taken care of and that is why he worked for AAL to insure that others, when in the face of tragedy, would suffer a little less, a sentiment that has been expressed to his family many times.

Ron was committed to his faith, family, friends, church and community. Always thinking and asking the questions that others were either too afraid to ask or never thought to ask. He always rooted for the underdog. His personality granted him the ability to strike up a conversation with almost anyone, although most of the boys in Sac County that knew his daughters were afraid of him. He expected more, pushed harder, hollered when he had to and then knew when to keep his mouth shut. The true light of his life were his grandkids. He loved spending time with them taking them fishing, on motorcycle rides and teaching them to drive his Model T. He also liked to take them to the Villager for coffee and let them eat ice cream cones for breakfast and then told them that there are certain things their mother didn't need to know. Ron and Charmaine were amazing gardeners and always canned their produce, a love they passed on to their girls, their husbands and the grandkids. Ron fought a long and hard battle against cardiomyopathy and chronic heart failure. He fought to stay with his family until Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the age of 74, in Prescott, AZ, surrounded by his family, Jesus reached out his hand and Ron grabbed hold.

Ron is now at home watching over his wife of 52 years Charmaine of Sun City, AZ formerly of Sac City. His daughters and their husbands, Rachel and Kevin Freeman of Prescott Valley, AZ and Charisse and Sean McNamara of Chino Valley, AZ. His "favorite" grandsons, Ellery Freeman of Cottonwood, AZ and Logan Freeman of Globe, AZ. His "baby" granddaughter, Ivy Freeman at home with her parents. His sister and her husband, Darris and Harold Westphal of Ireton. Brother and sister-in-law, Al and Pat Gorseth of Sun City West, AZ; two nieces, Susan Bomar of Katy, TX and Sara Westphal of Ireton. He was preceded in death by his parents and Charmaine's parents.

Cremation services were handled by David's Desert Chapel in Wickenburg, AZ. A memorial service will be held at Fountain of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City, AZ on March 13 at 11:00 a.m. The family requests memorials be given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1112 Bailey St., Sac City, IA 50583 or Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, 15630 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351. Condolences may be sent to the family in c/o Rachel Freeman 9481 E. Glencove Circle, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314.

Ron was a man that had a quote or words of wisdom for almost every situation. But his favorite, the one he lived by, the one he wanted his family to live by and said to them every time he talked to them, and the one they know he would want you to live by "Give'r Hell"

**David's Desert Chapel**  
**Funeral Home**  
325 W Yavapai St,  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390  
(928) 684-0710