

Ralph Sternhagen, 54

Sept. 11, 1962 - Nov. 6, 2016

HOLLAND — Ralph John Sternhagen, son of Merlin and Marian (Hillebrand) Sternhagen was born on September 11, 1962 in Independence. He attended high school in Grundy Center. Ralph's main vocation was as a truck driver for a variety of companies.

May 20, 1989, Ralph married Ronda Renee Kardell in Grundy Center. Ralph had resided in Grundy Center and the Holland area most of his life. He was a member of the American Lutheran Church in Grundy Center. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan. His hobbies included hunting and fishing, working in his garage with his



own extensive collection of Craftsman tools and tinkering with Cub Cadet lawn tractors. Ralph would build anything that his wife Ronda needed in her art classroom. He also enjoyed following his two sons school activities which included Andrew's sports and FFA activities and Matthew's sporting events. He loved spending time with his family, especially his two boys. Ralph passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at the Grundy County Memorial Hospital in Grundy Center.

In addition to his parents, Ralph was also preceded in death by his daughter, Anna Claryce Sternhagen; brother, Marvin Sternhagen; nephews, Gerred and Brandon Sternhagen; nieces, Abbey and Tiffany Sternhagen; sister-in-law, Frances Sternhagen; brothers-in-law, Robert Olsen and Carl Fowler. Survivors include his loving wife Ronda Sternhagen; sons, Andrew and Matthew Sternhagen all of Holland; his siblings, Ruth Ann (Ray) Wilson of Grundy Center, Gerald (Kathi) Sternhagen of Grundy Center, Joan Sternhagen of Waterloo, Elaine (Mike) Costello of Waterloo, Joe (LaVonne) Sternhagen of Grundy Center, Donna Fowler of Grundy Center, Velma (Gerry) Ulferts of Grundy Center, Linda (Bill) Harrington of Des Moines, Roger (Jean) Sternhagen of Grundy Center, Barbara Eiklenborg of Marshalltown, and Debbie (Mike) Schmidt of Marshalltown; brother-in-law, Ryan (Holly) Kardell of Gardner, KS; father-in-law and mother-in-law, David and Joyce Kardell of Hancock; 27 nieces and nephews and 10 great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the American Lutheran Church in Grundy Center with Pastor Luther Thoresen officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery in Grundy Center. Visitation was from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday November 11, 2016 at Engelkes-Abels Funeral Home in Grundy Center.

Online condolences may be made to the Sternhagen family at www.abelsfuneral-homes.com. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Engelkes-Abels Funeral Home

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