

Roger Kiwimagi was born on June 16, 1936, in North Dakota to George and Elvina (Palasma) Kiwimagi. When he was just five years old, he lost his mother, Elvina. He was then raised by his father, George, alongside his older brother, Donald, on their farm south of South Heart, ND. Roger attended country school, where he later returned to teach. His childhood was filled with time spent near his Aunt Bobbi, Uncle Duke, and cousins, with whom he remained close throughout his life. At 17, Roger experienced another profound loss when his father passed away. With Donald serving in the Navy, Roger enlisted in the Army. After his service, he returned home and put himself through college at Dickinson State University—driving a cab to pay his way. It was during this time that a warm smile and kind heart caught the attention of a young nurse, Bernadette Steffan. They were married on December 27, 1961. Soon after, the couple moved to Knoxville, TN, where Roger pursued a doctorate fellowship and earned master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics. Their life together was one of learning, laughter, and love. They moved to New York then Colorado, where they settled in Boulder. During these early years of their marriage they welcomed two daughters, Susan and Lori. In Boulder they expanded their family further with two sons, Gary and James. Roger lived a life of service and devotion—to his wife, his children, his friends, and his community. He taught his kids how to ski, fish, ride horses, and appreciate the outdoors. Weekends were spent camping, boating, mountain climbing, water skiing, and motorcycling. He created a childhood filled with adventure and love. A man of many talents, Roger was also a gifted artist and musician. He brought joy through his drawings, wooden and clay sculptures, songs on the guitar and piano, and the playful stories he made up for his children—including the legendary pancake doghouse. Roger's creativity extended to engineering and building. Whether it was a patio, grill, irrigation system, playhouse, sleigh, or puppet stage, he poured care and craftsmanship into every project. His generosity and talent touched both family and friends. After an early retirement from IBM, Roger continued to teach, sharing his knowledge at colleges in Texas, Guam, and eventually back at Dickinson State University. He and Bernadette embraced retirement by traveling widely—exploring the country in their motorhome, sailing their 36-foot boat "DaJoLiKat," and riding Roger's Goldwing motorcycle on long tours. He even took up scuba diving. Roger was a proud and grateful friend of Bill W. for nearly 50 years, dedicating countless hours to personal growth and mentoring others. He volunteered in prisons to help men find sobriety and purpose. In his final years, Roger lived with Bernadette and his son Gary's family, enjoying the beauty of Colorado, the company of his loved ones, and helping his wife tend the garden. His son James lived nearby in Denver, adding to the closeness of their later years. Roger is survived by his beloved wife, Bernadette; his children, Susan (Jerry) Davis of Huntsville, AL; Lori (Ace) Acevedo of Minot, ND; Gary (Sharon) Kiwimagi of Parker, CO; and James Kiwimagi of Denver, CO; his grandchildren, Joshua (Gina), Katherine (Sihong), David (Alexis), Emily (Kyle), Carrie, and Anton; and his great-grandchildren, Oliver, Elsie, Nathaniel, and Liliana. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews an in-laws. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Elvina Kiwimagi; his brother, Donald; his Aunt Bobbi (Kaspberg) and Uncle Duke Kivamagi; and his cherished granddaughter, Lindsay Davis. Roger leaves behind a legacy of kindness, integrity, and boundless love. He will be remembered always for the way he lived.

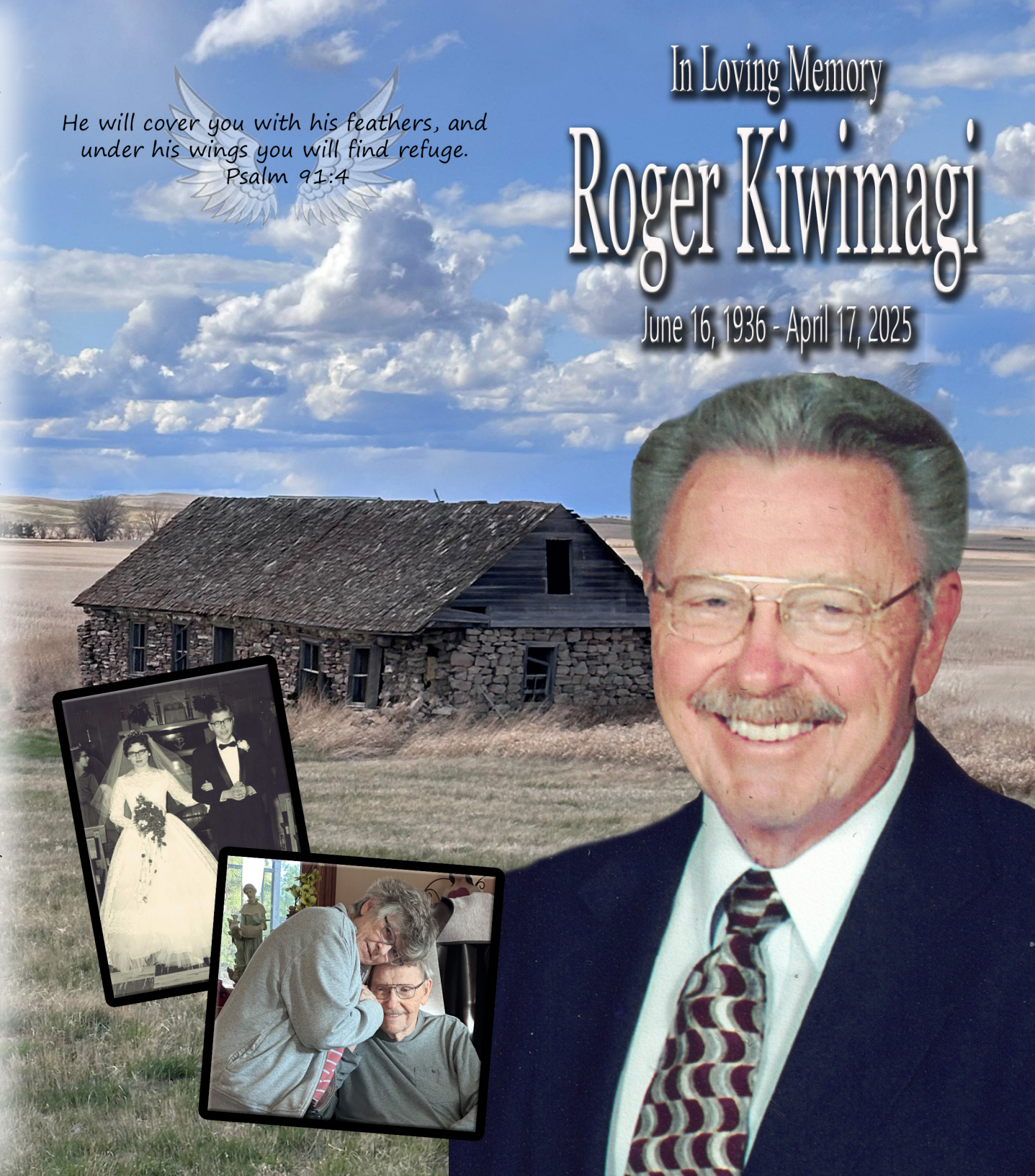
*He will cover you with his feathers, and
under his wings you will find refuge.*

Psalm 91:4

In Loving Memory

Roger Kiwimagi

June 16, 1936 - April 17, 2025



Roger Kiwimagi

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, April 26, 2025 11:00 am
Family Worship Center
Colorado Springs, Colorado

VISITATION

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:00 pm
Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:00 am
Daglum Lutheran Cemetery
south of South Heart, North Dakota

OFFICIATING

Roger Dieterle

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

Lunch will be served at Daglum Lutheran Church
following the graveside service.
Everyone is welcome.

The Ship

What is dying?

*I am standing on the seashore, a ship
sails in the morning breeze and starts
for the ocean. She is an object of
beauty and I stand watching her till
at last she fades on the horizon and
someone at my side says: "She is
gone."*

Gone? Where?

*Gone from my sight that is all. She is
just as large in the masts, hull and
spars as she was when I saw her, and
just as able to bear her load of living
freight to its destination. The dimin-
ished size and total loss of sight is in
me, not in her, and just at the
moment when someone at my side
says, "She is gone" there are others
who are watching her coming, and
other voices take up a glad shout:
"There she comes!"*

... and that is dying.

- Bishop Brent



God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference

