

Russell William Ruhland, the oldest of six children born to Larry and Mary (Bohlke) Ruhland, was born June 25, 1955, in Sioux City, Iowa. Russ grew up in the Hawarden, Iowa area and graduated from West Sioux High School in 1973. While going to school he also worked at Coilcraft. After high school, Russ joined the United States Air Force and proudly served from 1973 until he was honorably discharged in 1975. After his military discharge, Russ returned to Hawarden and enrolled at Sioux Empire College.

In 1978 Russ began working at L.G. Everist. He started as a welder repairing railroad cars and though his positions changed over the years, his work ethic never did and in 1995 Russ became the Hawarden plant manager. A position he held until retiring in 2019 after spending 41 years with L.G. Everist. Through this career he made many friendships and worked with many great customers.

1978 not only brought a new career, but also a wife. Russ married Lori Anderson and to this union the couple was blessed with their daughter, Tara. The couple later divorced and in 1991 Russ married Barb (Bultman) Anacker. Barb brought three more children into Russ' life, and although their relationship did not last, he continued to keep Jenn, Sarah and Dan close to his heart, and stayed in touch with them for years to come. Russ also spent many years with Kim (Schneider) Blinde and always enjoyed spending time with her, her children, Lauren, Katie and Dylan, as well as the rest of the Schneider family, especially for Saturday morning coffee.

Russ was known by everyone to have a heart of gold, a generous spirit, and a good story. He was an avid bowler, golfer, pool player, and was a master at crossword puzzles. Through all these activities, he made many lifelong friendships. Russ also had a passion for farming, enjoyed NASCAR, football (Raiders), baseball (Twins), and any sports or activities his grandchildren participated in. He holds the title of "best Papa ever" with pride. There was nothing that Russ wouldn't do for his friends and family. He was truly one of a kind. Russ passed away at his home in Hawarden on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at the age of 71.

Russ is survived by his daughter, Tara (Mario) Ramos of Hawarden; mother, Mary Ruhland of Hawarden; three grandchildren, Maddux, Lucia, and Everly; five siblings, Mic (Kay) Ruhland of Ireton, Jerry (Wendi) Ruhland of Hawarden, Patti (Bruce) Ericson of Akron, Denise (Kelly) Beitelspacher of Akron, and Joey (Warren) Vander Feen of Hawarden; stepchildren, Jennifer (Rob) Anacker of Bosie, Idaho, Sarah (Redgie) Blanco of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Dan Anacker of Boise; along with many nieces and nephews.

Russ was preceded in death by his father, Larry Ruhland; ex-wives, Lori and Barb; and brother-in-law, Joe Loutsch.

Remembering the Life of Russell William Ruhland

June 25, 1955 ~ August 16, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:30 AM, Saturday, August 22, 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS
Hawarden, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe

ACCOMPANIST

Sharon Wakeman

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"Amazing Grace"

"On Eagle's Wings"

"The Old Rugged Cross"

PALLBEARERS

Jason Robinson ~ David Ericson
Eric Waterbury ~ Adam Loutsch
Trent Ruhland ~ Joe Ruhland

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Travis Robinson ~ Damien Ericson
Shaun Ruhland ~ Doug Loutsch
Christopher Waterbury ~ Chad Ericson ~ Gene Ericson

MILITARY RITES

American Legion Post 186
Akron, Iowa
Air Force Honor Guard
Offutt Air Force Base

INTERMENT

Grace Hill Cemetery
Hawarden, Iowa

*Russ' family invites everyone to Old City Hall following the
committal service at the cemetery for a time of food and fellowship.*

Do not stand at my grave and weep;

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there.

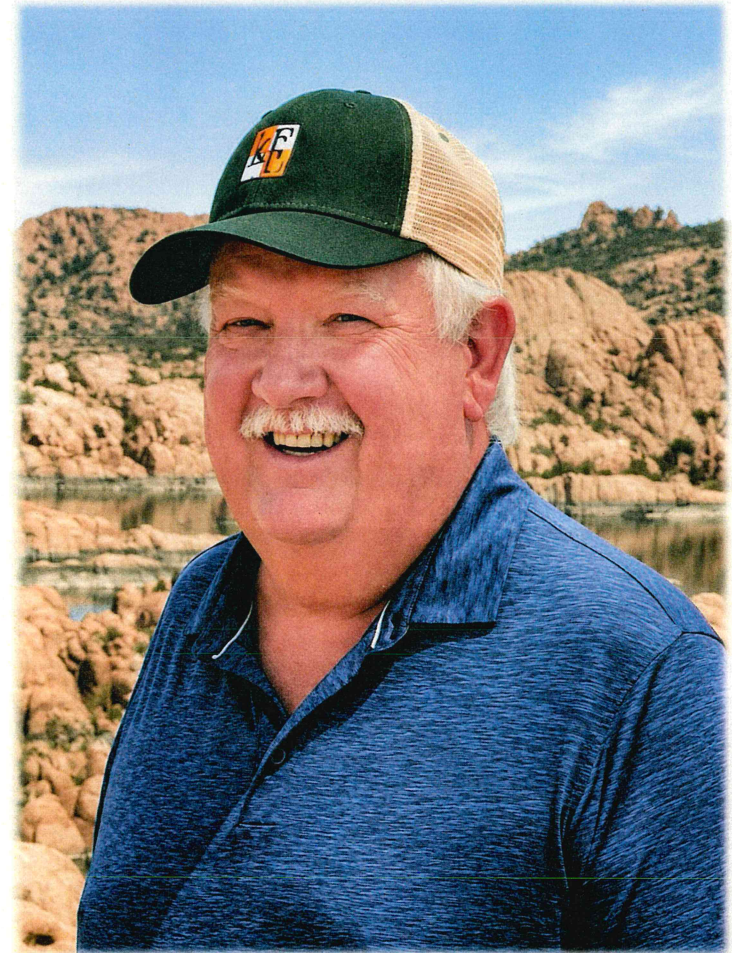
I did not die.

POEM BY:

MARY FRYE



In Loving Memory



Russ Ruhland

June 25, 1955 ~ August 16, 2026