



Roger Elias Nornes was born on November 17, 1933, in Erskine, MN, to Elias and Annette (Engevik) Nornes. Roger's mother died when he was ten-years-old. He lived with various relatives in the Winger and Gatzke, MN, areas. After eighth grade, Roger went to live with his aunt and uncle: Gunhild and Malton Benson, in Erskine, MN, and cousins: Joyce, Jim, and Kerm Bensen, who became his family. He graduated from Erskine High School in 1951. On Christmas Day in 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Paulson, and they were married for nearly 72 years.

After high school, Roger went to trade school and worked in autobody. He joined the United States Army and upon his honorable discharge utilized the GI Bill to earn his teaching degree at Bemidji State.

He began teaching in 1959 in Rapid River, MI. In 1963, he returned to Bemidji State to finish his master's degree and in 1964 moved to Ortonville, MN, to teach Industrial Arts for the next 30 years. Roger spent these years sharing his talents, and sometimes patience, with the students of OHS. He would often say, "they are good kids, you just gotta hang with them long enough." He refereed, built prom and play sets, and often met students at the school on weekends in order for them to finish projects. Roger spent many summers as a carpenter building and remodeling houses, rebuilding cars, golfing, fishing, watching sports, and helping friends. On his small farm, he even had the knack to make rock picking fun.

Roger was led by his faith and was a member of First English Lutheran Church. He sang with the choir and served on various boards. Roger was known to be able to fix almost anything (sometimes needing his sledgehammer) and lent a hand or his materials to whoever was in need. He volunteered on the Ortonville Area Hospital Board, Healthcare Foundation, at the Olympics, and several PGA tournaments.

Left to cherish his memory are his son, Jeff (Kris) Nornes of Erskine, MN; daughter, Jackie Nornes of Ironton, MN; grandchildren: Casey (Alyssa) Nornes of Hutchinson, MN; Riley Nornes of St. Paul, MN; and Indiana (Ivan) Holm of Fargo, ND; great-grandchildren: Thatcher, Lilah, and Judson Nornes; special cousins/brothers: Jim (Nancy) Bensen of Baldwin, WI; and Kerm (Sandy) Bensen of Bemidji, MN; sister-in-law, Linda Ranisate of Bagley, MN; and many special cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Barbara; parents: Elias and Annette; brother, Paul; cousin/sister, Joyce Anderson Olafson; brothers-in law: Lloyd Ranisate, Jim Anderson, Leonard Olafson, and sister-in-law, Ruby Bensen.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Roger Elias Nornes



WHO WAS BORN

November 17, 1933
Erskine, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

March 18, 2026
Ortonville, Minnesota

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Monday, March 23, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.
First English Lutheran Church
Ortonville, Minnesota

CLERGY

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

MUSICIANS

Amy Adelman, Organist
First English Choir

SPECIAL SONGS

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" | "23rd Psalm"
"Come To Jesus" | "Beautiful Savior"

URN BEARERS

Beloved Children
Jeff Nornes and Jackie Nornes

INURNMENT

Mound Cemetery
Ortonville, Minnesota

APPRECIATION

Roger's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the graveside service, please join the family for a time of fellowship and luncheon in the church dining area.

*He always met people where they were at,
and treated everyone with respect -
regardless of their background or history.*

*He not only taught me how to work hard,
take pride in your work and be honorable in how you went
about it - he taught me a lot about how to treat people.*

*And I'm just one of many whom he mentored in these ways.
He will be missed, but his legacy lives on in all of the people he
taught and touched along the way.*

Noah Zehringer, former student



Please use the QR code to view Roger's slide
show, online obituary, and guestbook.

Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home
Ortonville, Minnesota

Celebrating THE LIFE OF



Roger Mornes
1933 - 2026