

Benjamin Rueben Meckel, Jr. of Burwell, Nebraska died August 8, 2017 at the Valley County Health Systems Hospital in Ord, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the First Congregational Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Alan Petersen and Rev. Harry Landaw will officiate. Visitation will be Friday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Burwell Fire or Police Department.

Ben was born November 23, 1959 at Omaha, Nebraska to Benjamin R. and Joyce (Anderson) Meckel, Sr.

Ben married Joann Cone on November 16, 1976 in Martin, South Dakota. Ben graduated from Burwell High School in 1978.

They moved to Kearney, Nebraska where Ben worked at Rockwell and then they later moved to Burwell. Ben and Joann purchased B & J Burgers and ran that until 1992. Ben then attended the Nebraska Law Enforcement Academy graduating in 1991. He worked at the Central City, Nebraska Police Department for a year. They then moved back to Burwell where he worked for the Burwell Police Department until his early retirement in 2004.

Ben's biggest joy was being around his grandchildren. He was a member of the Burwell Fire Department where he was an EMT and on the dive team and received the fireman of the year award in 1986. He enjoyed riding and working on his Harley Davidson motorcycle, visiting with his police friends and being a practical joker.

Ben is survived by his wife Joann Meckel of Burwell, Nebraska. Four children; Chris and Selena Meckel of Burwell, Nebraska, Dana and Jeramy Sedlacek of Ord, Nebraska, Amy Meckel of Jacksonville, Florida and Lisa Meckel of Minden, Nebraska. Eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A brother, Clyde and Susan Meckel and a sister Bonni Meckel all of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and step-dad Harry Rumbaugh.