



Rodger Wayne Woepfel of Solana Beach, CA, formerly of Ericson, NE, departed this life at Silverado Memory Care Community, Encinitas, CA, on January 26, 2018. Rodger was a man of humor, intellect and integrity. He was born on November 24, 1939 in Page, NE, to Elmer and Addie (Mikkelsen) Woepfel. Rodger was the eighth of twelve children and he loved his siblings and their families dearly. He attended high school in Ewing, NE. In 1962 he married his beloved wife, Lorraine Sturek, who was the light of his life for over 55 years, and together they had three children he adored. In 1957, at age 17, Rodger joined the United States Navy and served his Country with great pride and honor aboard its ships in times of peace and conflict before retiring in 1977 as a Chief Petty Officer. After retiring from the Navy, he moved his family to Ericson, NE, where he owned and operated the Ericson Butcher and Locker Plant, worked in the fertilizer and irrigation industries and drove semi-trucks nationwide. Anything worth doing, Rodger believed in doing well. He was an accomplished dancer, pool player, cribbage player and an avid fan of golf and Cornhusker football. He was meticulous in everything he did and always enjoyed a manicured yard around his home. A loving and spirited soul, Rodger was passionate about his family, had a gift for putting people at ease with his jokes and never knew a stranger. He cherished his pets.

Rodger is survived by his dear wife Lorraine, his sisters Charlotte Herendeen, Lila Day and Karen Davis, his brothers Leo, Robert and David, his son Rodger (Rod) and his daughter-in-law Lisa of Hot Springs, SD, his daughter Susan and her husband Scott Salka of Rancho Santa Fe, CA and his daughter Candice and her husband Greg Wright of Harpswell Islands, ME. He will be remembered fondly by his 13 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews for his sense of humor and obvious pride in their lives. He was preceded in death by his parents and five brothers, Harold, Glen, Dale, Lester, Arnold. A celebration of Rodger's life was held on February 18th at the home of Susan and Scott Salka in Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Memorial donations may be made to your local American Legion Chapter or charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be 10:00 Friday, June 29, 2018 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Ericson, Nebraska. Inurnment will be in the Bartlett Cemetery in Bartlett, Nebraska. Fr. Antony Thekkekara will officiate. Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.