

Ronald Michael Shonka, 82, of Omaha, Nebraska, formerly of Burwell and O'Neill, died at his home on November 14, 2013.

Ronald Michael Shonka was born on January 11, 1931 to Mike A. Shonka and Agnes (Krofta) Shonka, in Schuyler, Nebraska. In May of 1933 Ron and his family moved to a ranch 6 miles south of Amelia, Nebraska in southern Holt County where he attended country school. Later the family moved to a farm northwest of Burwell, Nebraska where the Calamus and Loup rivers joined in their pasture. Ronald's father Mike Shonka started a real estate career and moved into Burwell, Nebraska where Ronald attended school, graduating from the Burwell High School in 1948. He attended the University of Nebraska for three years until enlisting in the United States Air Force after the Korean War commenced.

He entered the cadet flight training program and was stationed at San Antonio, and Wichita Falls, Texas, Selma, Alabama, Malden, Missouri, San Angelo, Texas, Big Springs, Texas, Las Vegas, Nevada, Suwon, Korea, Chitosi, Japan, and Great Falls, Montana.

He met and married his wife Eleanor Muzzana from Great Falls, Montana and they have four children, sons Michael Lee Shonka and Dana Jon Shonka of Omaha, a daughter Michele Lynn Zipprich of Arizona, and son Brent Alan Shonka of Tampa, Florida, five grand children and one great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his only sibling a sister Marcella Peterson

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 22, 2013 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Fr. Mark Maresh will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday from 5 -7 p.m. at the church with a Rosary at 6:00 p.m. Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.

In Lieu of flowers, please make donations to Dollars for Scholars - to raise matching funds annually to provide college scholarships to Burwell High School graduates.

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