



Thomas Ira Erickson, 75, of Ericson, Nebraska, died September 10, 2017, at the Valley County Health Systems Hospital in Ord, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 15, 2017 at the United Methodist Church in Ericson, Nebraska. Burial will be in the Bartlett Cemetery in Bartlett, Nebraska. Pastor Duane Waddle will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska.

Tom was born April 1, 1942, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Ira and Lola Jeanette (Slone) Erickson.

Tom graduated from Burwell High School in 1960. He ran track at Doane College then transferred to Chadron State to get his teaching certificate. He first taught school at Elgin St. Boniface and coached volleyball at Elgin Pope John. He later taught at Long Pine and Ashby. He retired from teaching at Spalding High School.

Tom married Kay (Ziegler) Johnson on January 23, 1962. From this union seven children were born. They lived in western Nebraska until moving to Ericson in April of 1971.

Tom then married Dawn (Urwiler) Erickson on August 26, 1994. From this union two children were born. They have lived on a ranch east of Ericson for the last 23 years.

Tom was a rancher and farmer all of his life. He worked many years at the Ericson Sale Barn. Upon retiring from teaching, he went to work for Zangger's Popcorn in North Loup, NE, and was working for Maschhoffs Pig Confinement. In his teaching career Tom influenced many young people with his energy, ideas and enthusiasm. His love of teaching and coaching continued long after retiring, and he was often asked to substitute. He was a cross-country coach and driver's education instructor for many years.

Tom always had a love for running, from running in college, to participating in many road races and even completing a few marathons. Running was one of his favorite past times that he shared with his children. He loved to sing and was always on top of his current events.

Tom served in the military most of his adult life. He joined the Marines then later became a member of the Nebraska National Guard where he served his country for over 20 years. His love for the Nebraska National Guard was so strong that it influenced four of his children and a granddaughter to serve.

Tom is survived by his wife Dawn Erickson of Ericson, Nebraska. Eight children, Roxi Erickson of Omaha, Nebraska; Karlene and Mike Herrell of Westfield, Indiana; Darrin and Jeannie Erickson of Ericson, Nebraska; Craig and Shannon Erickson of Ft. Benning, Georgia; Brenda Erickson of Lincoln, Nebraska; Sonja Zerr of McCook, Nebraska; Mitchell Erickson of Ericson, Nebraska; and Margo Erickson of Lincoln, Nebraska. Fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild and a sister, Kathlene and Don Gordon of LeMars, Iowa.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Todd Erickson.

Memorials are suggested to the Ericson Methodist Church or the American Red Cross.