



Rodney (Rod) Farmer

July 9, 1931 - December 22, 2015

Rodney "Rod" Farmer, 84, Grand Island, died December 22, 2015, at Good Samaritan in Wood River.

Rod was born on July 9, 1931, in Fremont, NE to Earl and Sarah (Koch) Farmer. He grew up in Fremont and graduated from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont.

On July 5, 1953, he was united in marriage to Jean Niemoth at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. After which the couple lived in St. Louis, MO; Kansas City, KS; and Des Moines, IA where he was involved with YMCA his whole career. Rod retired as CEO of the Greater Des Moines YMCA and retired to Estes Park, CO. He moved to Grand Island after his wife's death in 2010.

Rod was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church. He enjoyed sports of any kind, having played college basketball and handball at the YMCAs he worked. He loved the mountains and his dog, Fritz.

Rod is survived by his sister-in-law, Susan (Niemoth) and Jerry Shalberg of Grand Island; dog, Fritz III; and cousin, LaDonna Birr of Pulaski, WI.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Jean, and his parents.

According to his wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no services.

Memorials are suggested to Messiah Lutheran Church or donor's choice.

Comments



“ Rod was the boss at the Des Moines YMCA when I started my professional career as a program director and later a branch executive director in the mid-70s. He was thoughtful, supportive, and happy. I will miss him but will continue to pursue the example he provided. He believed in supporting the positive. A great man.

John Pollak - December 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Rod may not ever have really known my name. I first met him in the mid 1970's, and then kept on seeing him at the YMCA in downtown Des Moines for many years after that. He was one of those people that makes a big impression on those he comes into contact with. My recollections of him are from long ago, but I remember great things about him. First of all, he was tremendously friendly, positive and outgoing and always someone who made me feel better by how he greeted me. I remember him as being energetic and in fantastic shape as he was very much into fitness at the YMCA. He taught some very difficult classes at the Y and I always marveled at his conditioning. Rod was unforgettable, and I hope his later years were happy and fulfilling. He deserved that. I am certain he touched thousands of people with his great nature and presence. He deserves words to be said about him. Peace to you, Rod.

Chris Ostlund - December 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM