



Roger Keith Werner

September 14, 1936 - July 9, 2020

Roger Keith Werner, age 83, of Dassel, formerly of Darwin, died Thursday, July 9, 2020, at his home in Dassel. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with Pastor Doug Johnson and Pastor Paul Settergren officiating. The interment of the urn will be held at the Ellsworth Cemetery in rural Darwin.

There will be a time to gather with the family one hour prior to the memorial service at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel.

The Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel is in charge of the memorial service arrangements.

Roger Keith Werner, the son of Richard and Ruby (Condon) Werner was born on September 14, 1936, in Ellsworth Township, Meeker County, Minnesota. Roger grew up on the family farm helping with the farm chores. He was a lifetime member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church where he was baptized in 1936 and later confirmed. He served the church as a Sunday school teacher, served on the Gethsemane Lutheran Church Council, head usher, and owner of pew 7. Roger attended district #24 and graduated from Dassel High School in 1954. He continued his education by attending several Agriculture Management classes at the University of Minnesota.

On July 26, 1958, Roger was united in marriage to Janet Luedtke at the Acoma Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Together they made their home in Ellsworth Township until May of 2020, when they moved to Dassel. Roger worked his land and enjoyed the fruits of his gardens. He was employed at Hutchinson Technology Inc. in Hutchinson for several years and had also been employed at Cozy Cab in Litchfield. Roger served on the Ellsworth Township Board and the Ellsworth Cemetery Board. He was the Darwin Museum Director for several years.

Roger was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather. He could often be found cheering on his grandchildren at DC Charger

Games. He was an avid volunteer at many Twinsfest. He enjoyed listening to music from artist such as Johnny Horton, Boxcar Willie and Johnny Cash. He loved to spend time socializing with friends and family. He was an avid outdoorsman and often could be found fishing, hunting, and enjoying a demo derby. Christmas time was a special time for Roger who had played Santa Claus for over 50 + years. He loved to see a young child's eyes light up with the joy of Christmas. He enjoyed the time that he spent with his family for holidays, the annual candy run to Forest City and special events. As the holder of the Werner Secret Sausage Recipe he enjoyed making the family sausage every year. He will be missed by his friends and loving family.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Werner of Dassel, children, Coleen (Lowell) Litzau of Glencoe, Carla (Allen) Johnson of Darwin, eight grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and one great great grandchild, siblings, Joan Bieber of Grand Marais, Minnesota, and Dale (Lois) Werner of Battle Lake, Minnesota. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his son, Keith Werner, parents, Richard and Ruby Werner, sister, Jane Larson and nephews, Tim Werner, and Mark Radunz.

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones". Proverbs 17:22

Cemetery Details

Ellsworth Community Cemetery

Darwin, MN

Tribute Wall



“ I don't remember much but he was my Father Or So I was told. Only met him a few times. Last memory of him was when he pulled into my mother's driveway and I had no idea who he was. This "Great Guy" was a real piece of work. When my son was born i called him and when I explained that I wanted nothing from him other than to inform him about his Grand Son being born. He said "Not my department" and hung up. Then about 2 years later if reached out again and asked for a family medical history for my son (his grandson) he just said yeah and never got back in touch with me!! The family man thing was a lie and his reputation was carefully crafted. My name is Shane Olson I grew up in Cokato MN and if you wish to contact me call (509)613-8169

Shane Olson - December 18, 2024 at 03:38 AM

DF

“ (This will be a flash from the past for Carla.) Your dad was a treasure. His humanity and love for your brother has left an indelible memory in my mind. I lost a child myself and he is one of the examples of parent-grief and love I recalled as I was navigating my own grief. Yours was a solid family and I appreciated you. (My mom asked me to peruse the local obituaries for her and when I saw this I had to pause and let you know.)

Dana (Dahlgren) Freeman - July 03, 2022 at 09:15 PM

HM

“ My sympathies to Janet, Carla, Coleen and the rest of the Werner family. Roger was a wonderful friend and neighbor to my family, and I always enjoyed visiting with him. The Darwin community will feel a little smaller without him. Roger will be missed by all who knew him.

Heidi Maahs - August 06, 2020 at 05:42 PM

NL

“ There are a few people who loom large in our family memories, and Roger is one of those people. There were two families who substituted for far away family when we moved to Dassel - the Werner's and the Crowes - and both will always be treasured by Merle, me and our kids. Roger was a standout, entertaining us all with laughter and stories and taking guff from no one. As for us, the stories of Roger, Tom and Merle's auction escapades will always be told, and Merle and I will never forget things like the Dassel Fireman's Ball or other adult entertainment. Due to my crazy schedule, we haven't seen Roger nearly enough over the past few years, but the love is still there. I am so sorry we are now so close in proximity while being so far apart due to COVID-19, but know that in case of need, we are here for you, Janet, no matter what.

Nancy Larson - July 17, 2020 at 05:06 PM

JF

“ Janet, we send our deepest condolences to you and your entire family. Roger was a good man. Please know our prayers are with all of you.
Doug and Julie Fett

Julie Fett - July 14, 2020 at 04:11 PM

KA

“ My deepest sympathy on the loss of Roger! He certainly was a kind man to EVERYONE. I met Roger at Toastmasters in Litchfield. My best memory was a Toastmasters party at someone's home - I had put my car keys in my jacket pocket - went to go home because I had to work at 11:00 pm. No keys - no jacket! Roger was kind enough to come back and exchange our jackets and I got to work on time!

Kathy Anderson-Nelson - July 14, 2020 at 08:45 AM

DO

“ Sympathies to you, Jan and your family. Roger will be forever in your hearts. Take care and God bless.

Donna - July 13, 2020 at 10:00 PM

CB

“ Jan and family; our deepest sympathy and prayers of comfort and peace as your journey now goes on without Roger's presence but with all the wonderful memories. Hugs all around.

Cheryl Beilke - July 13, 2020 at 03:50 PM

TH

“ Jan, Colleen, Carla and families, were so very sorry to hear of Rogers passing. Tim knew Roger from HTI and our Children couldn't wait to see THE REAL SANTA, there also!
Keeping you in our prayers at this difficult time.
Tim and Dawn Halverson

tim and Dawn Halverson - July 13, 2020 at 03:07 PM

GO

“ Roger was a great friend that always seemed to have a smile on this face. He was never too busy to stop what he was doing and say hello. We shared many cups of coffee at the old Dassel Bakery. He will be deeply missed.
Love and peace to his family.

Gene Oberg

Gene Oberg - July 13, 2020 at 02:06 PM