



## Donald Robert Rubendall

February 17, 1949 - September 14, 2015

Donald Rubendall, 66, of Alden, passed away Monday, September 14, 2015. Memorial services will be 10:30 am Friday, September 18, 2015 at the Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Alden. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 pm Thursday at the church. Woodley Funeral Home, LLC of Iowa Falls is caring for Donald and his family. 641-648-7700.

Donald Robert Rubendall was born February 17, 1949 in Sioux City, Iowa to Betty Lou Rubendall. The first eight years of his life he was raised by his grandparents, Dave and Jennie Rubendall. He went to live with his mother and stepfather, Chris Thompsen, after their marriage and was later baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alden, Iowa where he is currently a member.

Don moved around quite often with his mother and stepfather until they finally settled in Alden. He graduated from Alden High School in 1967 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy for four years. While serving his country he was able to take three cruises aboard the U.S.S. America, at that time, the largest aircraft carrier in the Navy. They cruised to Australia, The Mediterranean, and spent thirteen months in Vietnam. After leaving the Navy, he returned to Alden and started working for Weaver Construction on the asphalt crew.

In 1973 he married Liz Lettow at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Alden. The couple settled in Ames, Iowa where he worked at 3M. Later Don left 3M to begin a construction career with Story Construction. He took night classes to acquire his journeyman's license and continued work in the construction field for most of his life.

Don and Liz were blessed with two children, Davey and Cody. They decided to move back to the area where they grew up, to provide a wholesome upbringing for their children and a "rural America" way of life. They were later blessed with six grandchildren: Gabe, Darby, Mabel and Grayson Janes and DeLane and Logan Rubendall.

Don was a fantastic cook and was well known in Alden for his "Ruby's Ribs". He and Liz

also catered special events for local people. He was an avid fan of the ISU Cyclones and was rarely seen without wearing some sort of Iowa State attire. Don and Liz enjoyed traveling. One trip took them both to Hawaii where Don was working on a mountain tunnel. They also spent time in Tennessee but greatly enjoyed their trips to South Dakota and Wyoming. Liz introduced him to her love of the “old West” and the mountain landscapes and wildlife. It became a favorite of his as well.

Don is survived by his wife, Liz; daughter, Davey (Todd) Janes, son, Cody Rubendall; six grandchildren and one more arriving any day now; sisters, Jennie (Rick) Dawson and Christie Weatherly; brothers, Mark Thompsen (John Fletcher) and Jason Thompsen; sisters-in-law, Jane (Lowell) Wykle, Jeanette Krause and Ona Mae Lettow; brother-in-law, Mark (Linda) Lettow, Ron Tystahl, Dennis (Melissa) Hosey and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved “Gramps” Dave and Grandma Jennie Rubendall; mother and stepfather, Chris and Betty Thompsen; a sister, Melissa Hosey; his father and mother -in-law, Elmer and Mabel Lettow; brothers -in-law, Steve Lettow, Denny Krause; sister -in-law Joan Tystahl; a nephew in-law, J.D. Krause and a niece, Kasey Hosey.

The family would like to sincerely thank friends and family for their acts of kindness during this difficult time. Special thank you goes out to the entire community, the Hardin County Sheriffs Office, Iowa State Patrol, Alden Fire Department and Hardin County E-Squad who worked through the night to help us find and bring Don home. We will be forever grateful. God has truly blessed us.