



Dan J. Else

January 30, 1949 - May 11, 2021

Dan Else, 72, of Omaha, Nebraska, formerly of Gothenburg and Kearney, peacefully passed away Tuesday, May 11, 2021, surrounded by his family, at Creighton University Medical Center – Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha. A celebration of life service will take place in Kearney on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 4500 Linden Drive, Kearney, Nebraska. Military honors will be provided by the Kearney American Legion Post #52, the Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 and the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team. Memorial donations have been made to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and a commemorative bench with a plaque will be placed at the zoo in Dan's honor. Further memorials will go to the Dawson County 4-H Foundation, Dan Else Memorial, PO Box 422, Lexington, NE 68850. To leave online condolences please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Dan was born January 30, 1949 in Kearney, Nebraska to Arthur E. and Lois (Marshall) Else. Following the death of his father (1952), he was raised by his mother and stepfather Clarence G. Rahmann. Danny Joe grew up in the Kearney-Elm Creek area and enjoyed being with his grandpa Warren Marshall at the Kearney Livestock Salebarn and farming with his uncles.

Dan graduated from Kearney High School in 1967. He heroically served his

country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1971 as a Green Beret paratrooper, where he earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Sharpshooter Badge.

In 1971, Dan married his high school sweetheart, Trudy Martin. Together with their three daughters and one son, they led a whirlwind life full of creative adventures that included baseball games, 4-H projects, Odyssey of the Mind tournaments, horse and sheep shows, community theater volunteering, and more. Dan followed his family on whatever escapade that came their way. His happiest moments were at the ballfield or on the lake, spending time with his family.

Agriculture was the center of Dan's career. He worked in the cattle industry, primarily as a feedlot manager, for 43 years in companies throughout Nebraska and Colorado and was a member of Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Dawson County Cattlemen. The family lived 30 years in Gothenburg, before Dan and Trudy moved to Omaha in 2013 after retiring from agriculture and teaching.

In the final years of his life, Dan enjoyed living near his nine grandchildren in Omaha, cheering them on at ball games, theatrical productions, skating competitions, dance recitals and other activities. Many special memories were made while fishing, spending time with animals, enjoying Stormchasers baseball games at Werner Park, and being together with grandpa at Standing Bear Lake.

Dan was a member of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Omaha and a member of VFW Post 1581 in Bennington, Nebraska.

Survivors include his wife, Trudy (Martin) Else of Omaha; daughter Kori (Eric) Radloff and grandchildren Rachel and Skyler of Omaha; son Robert (Christina) Else of Omaha and grandchildren Maggie, Josh, Natalie, Emily and Abby; daughter Sara (Blair) Riffel of Omaha; and daughter Rebecca Else and granddaughters Alexis and Addison of Omaha; half-sisters Catherine Rahmann of Omaha; Sherry Curtis of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Shelley Mortimer of Saratoga Springs, Utah; and Bonnie Wheeler of Otis, Colorado.

Dan was preceded in death by his father Arthur Else; mother Lois Rahmann; and stepfather Clarence Rahmann.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Dan J. Else*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM