



Duane (Digger) P. Heiliger

May 24, 1934 - August 25, 2015

Duane P. "Digger" Heiliger, age 81, of Kearney died Tuesday morning, August 25, 2015

Services will be Saturday, August 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kearney with Rev. Rebecca Craig officiating. Military rites by V.F.W. Post # 759, American Legion Post # 52 and the National Guard Military Honors Squad will be conducted at the church following the services. Burial will be at Kearney Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to Sullivan Hills Camp (a Lutheran Youth Camp) at Lodgepole, NE or Kearney High School Bearcat Booster Club. The family would like to invite

everyone to a lunch at the Holiday Inn following the service at the church. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence.

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Duane Phillip (Digger) Heiliger was born May 24, 1934, in rural Cheyenne County near Lodgepole, NE to Phillip and Marie (Meyer) Heiliger. He was baptized into the Christian faith at the Zion Lutheran Church in Chappell, NE. He moved to Kearney, NE in 1948.

On September 6, 1959, he married Betty Sheldon in Kearney where he lived the rest of his life.

Duane grew up his first 14 years on a ranch in Lodgepole, NE where he was grounded in the love of cattle and pastureland. After moving to Kearney, baseball became a fulfilling and rewarding phase of Duane's life. Duane finished his education in Kearney and worked for General Telephone Company for sixteen years. He decided to begin an Electrical business in 1962 and remained there until retirement in 1988.

During retirement Duane enjoyed his work with the church, Saturday morning Bible Study, Motorist Assist for the State Patrol, golf, having coffee and many laughs with all his friends and sharing time with his family whom he loved so much. He says to them, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened".

Duane was blessed and the essence of him can be seen and lives on in his children and grandchildren who

were dear to him.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; his son David and his wife Lori, their children Shelby Heiliger, Rachel Bilodeau, and Jared Chapman, all of CA, and son Randy and his wife Joni, of Lincoln, their children, Jacob Heiliger of Omaha, Joshua Heiliger and Jordan Heiliger of Lincoln; sister, Elaine Buss of Kearney; brother-in-law Butch Sheldon and his wife Jane of Kearney.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marie and Phillip Heiliger and brother-in-law Carl Buss.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Duane (Digger) P. Heiliger*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Digger was a great guy to work for. He will be missed.*

Steven & Marlene Mead - August 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Betty: our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Digger was always a wonderful inspiration to all of us. Prayers going your way.*

Jake & Verlene Jacoby

Jake & Verlene Jacoby - August 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Duane (Digger) P. Heiliger*

Roma Landry - August 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers for the Heiliger Family during this time of loss. I remember many visits to the Heiliger house as a young boy. I remember Mr. Heiliger and my dad telling many stories and laughing. They both passed on to be with the Lord the same month. Blessings and comfort to your family during this time.*

Trent Thorell - August 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Betty and the Heiliger family. Digger was a really great friend. He will be missed.*

Dewey Asher - August 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *I loved hanging out with Digger, he was a great guy and loved life! I will miss him!*

ANDREW FEDDERSEN - August 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Betty and family-*

Thinking of you as you celebrate the life you and Duane had together. Bless you all.

Mary Ellen Lantis & family

Mary Ellen Lantis - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *Thoughts and Prayers are with Duanes family. I worked with him and served on the bargaining committee with him. Im sure he will be missed by all who knew him.*

Bill & Marilyn Allington - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *We are sorry to hear about digger. I will never forget the good times playing softball with him. He was an inspiration to me and kept the team in good spirits.*

Stan, connie, stuart and dawn schake

stan and connie schake - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *FRENSHIP IS THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE OR RECEIVE.*

SEE YOU LATER GOOD FRIEND

DOUG

DOUG COMSTOCK - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *my prayer is that the God of all comfort and peace will guard your hearts during this time. I remember The first time I met Digger 41 years ago, as a 10-year-old boy having digger as a baseball coach and how he inspired us to be all that we could be, I find that he helped to shape my character in the formative years. Randy and family, my prayers go out fir you and may you sense his presence in your life.*

Brad Brandt - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *We became acquainted with Digger through the Kearney softball Association in 1963. He was an outstanding softball player and a great competitor. The thing neat about the Kearney softball Association all the teams were friends and did a lot of things together. Our condolences to the family. Cherish your memories and may God bless you during this time of grieving.*

Bill & Kathy Holliday - August 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM