



Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda

February 12, 1967 - January 30, 2021

Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda, 53, of Upland, NE passed away on Saturday, January 30, 2021 as a result of an automobile accident. Funeral services will be on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at New Life Church in Kearney. Burial will be at 2:00 p.m. at the Upland, NE Cemetery. Rev. Roger Wendt will officiate. Visitation will be on Sunday, February 7, 2020 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home and also 1 hour prior to services on Monday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the family, for later designation. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Rod was born in Shelton, NE to George and Deanne (Russell) Svoboda on February 12, 1967. Rod attended school in Shelton and graduated from Shelton High School in 1985. At the age of 16 he met the love of his life, Laurie. Rod attended Central Community College in Grand Island, NE.

Rod and Laurie were married at the United Methodist Church in Shelton, Nebraska on August 22, 1987 and later were blessed with two wonderful daughters, Rochelle Marie in 1988 and Sarah Renee in 1991.

He worked at West Company followed by Kelly Electric in Kearney before relocating to Littleton, Colorado where they lived for 16 years. While in

Colorado he worked for Design Electric followed by Integrity Electrical Solutions. Rod and Laurie relocated back home to Nebraska and settled in Upland in 2018 to be closer to family. He worked at IES Commercial in Holdrege until the time of his death.

In Rod's free time he enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking, and cooking. Some of his greatest joys were the moments he spent with his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed playing games and was always cooking something delicious for those he loved. While living in Colorado, Rod was a member of Dakota Ridge Church where he served as a deacon for many years. He was also known as "Commander Rod" for Royal Rangers. After returning to Nebraska, Rod attended his home church, New Life in Kearney where he served on the host team.

Rod is survived by his daughters, Rochelle (Blake) Frost of Gothenburg, NE and Sarah (Tyler) Barone of Littleton, CO; Grandchildren, Melody Barone, Asher Barone and Otto Frost; Brothers Russell (Vicki) Svoboda of Abingdon, VA and Rock Svoboda of AZ; Brother-in-law, Heath (Lori) Gregor of Gainesville, FL; Sister-in-law, Dawn (Travis) Kovarik of Kearney, NE; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews; and special friend Susan Halpin of Kearney, NE.

Rod was preceded in death by his wife Laurie; his parents; and father-in-law and mother-in-law.

Cemetery Details

Upland Cemetery

Upland, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

New Life Church
2715 West 39th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Video



Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services - February 07, 2021 at 04:43 PM

SM

Thank you for sharing the video. Rest in peace my friend! Sandra Mayfield

Sandra Mayfield - February 07, 2021 at 04:58 PM

SM

Thank you for sharing. Rest in Peace Rod!

Sandra Mayfield - February 07, 2021 at 06:00 PM

MA

When someone you lose becomes a memory, that memory becomes a Treasure. Rod was one of the most amazing man!!!

marla - February 08, 2021 at 02:07 PM

LB

So glad you shared the video. It was beautiful. Both your mom and dad were amazing-- loved them. So many memories to treasure.

Linda Brodine - February 08, 2021 at 03:24 PM

VC

Very touching video of rod and Laurie. I'm still in shock. Thank you for sharing. Rest in peace rod.

Vicki crowder - February 08, 2021 at 06:47 PM

SS

Thank you for sharing Rod was an awesome man he will be truly missed, rest in peace Rod

Shannon Slagle - February 08, 2021 at 07:55 PM

AN

As my tears flow, I know he is in the arms of his love Laurie and this brings me peace!! I miss you Rod!! Until we meet again my friend 🇺🇸💙🥹

Annette - February 09, 2021 at 12:10 AM

MC

thanks for sharing this video, Rest and Peace and prays for the family.

Marsha Coulter - February 09, 2021 at 09:07 AM

RS

“ *Ronda Schomburg lit a candle in memory of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda*



Ronda Schomburg - February 06, 2021 at 08:09 PM

MK

“ *I was one of Rod's elementary teachers. I remember his bright eyes and his wonderful smile. He was a delight to have in class!*

Mary Kulhanek - February 06, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 06, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 06, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ *I worked as a waitress when Rod and Laurie owned the Shelton Cafe. He was always so friendly and giving. He had a great sense of humor and loved to be out and about meeting customers. Laurie liked being in the kitchen! If I remember correctly, Rochelle was just a toddler and Sarah a baby when they owned the restaurant.*

So sorry to hear that you lost your parents. Courtney

Courtney Follmer - February 05, 2021 at 11:13 PM



“ *Rod I will never forget school and the fun we had as kids you where a true friend.*

mike - February 05, 2021 at 06:38 PM

LB

“ Love, SB and Beth purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



Love, SB and Beth - February 05, 2021 at 02:41 PM

AR

“ Amy Reine purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



Amy Reine - February 05, 2021 at 10:56 AM

DP

“ Don Pallotto purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



Don Pallotto - February 04, 2021 at 11:15 PM

DP

“ I met Rod when he came to interview for a job at Design Electric. I could tell he had a great work ethic, knowledge and personality. I hired him "on the spot". He was one of the best employees at the company, but he was more than a employee/ co-worker to me. He was my friend. He was like a son to me. He made me a better person just by knowing him. He loved his family and had true faith in the lord. He will always be in my heart. I will miss him. Till we meet again good buddy.

Don Pallotto - February 04, 2021 at 11:06 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 04, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 04, 2021 at 11:59 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 03, 2021 at 06:33 PM

MJ

“ Rodney was one of my 3rd grade students at Shelton Elementary. I remember him as a bright eyed, freckled nosed, wide grinned, fun - loving boy. My fondest memory of Rod as a student was that he was not motivated in the classroom by teacher’s stickers, but worked hard in class for the privilege of taking teacher’s new pup, Zack the dachshund, outside for breaks!



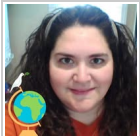
Marcia Jones - February 03, 2021 at 04:54 PM

YF

“ Your Victory Assembly family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



Your Victory Assembly family - February 03, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ Tara Foth lit a candle in memory of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda



Tara Foth - February 02, 2021 at 09:48 PM

DF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dawn Fuecker - February 02, 2021 at 03:52 PM

SH

I took this picture. He and Hank had an instant connection. I miss him terribly.

Susan Halpin - February 16, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 01, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 01, 2021 at 07:55 PM

LB

“ My nephew Rod Svoboda was one of the kindest persons I have ever met. He loved the Lord and his faith was evident in how he loved and served others. He was the real deal. Rod did so much for others that you could never name it all. Special little things like sharing jars of his homemade dill pickles and baking cookies and desserts for others to enjoy gave him great delight. He was never too busy to make time for others and put a smile on their face. We will miss Rod so much and his awesome personality. He was so humble and gracious. I could go on and on. Now he has reached his eternal home in heaven with Jesus. He definitely made his mark upon this earth and we are so much the better for it. We all will love and remember him till our turn comes.❤️

Lois Birdow - February 01, 2021 at 07:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



February 01, 2021 at 05:16 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.



February 01, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 01, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rodney "Rod" Ray Svoboda.*



February 01, 2021 at 03:44 PM