

John Mike Kraft was born September 26, 1935 in Beulah, North Dakota to John A. and Stella (Weisser) Kraft. He was raised and educated in Beulah, Dickinson and Minot. He graduated from Dickinson Trinity High School and attended Minot State University and UND-Williston. His dad passed away when John was very young, so he spent extra time with his younger brothers, took them out fishing and made sure to encourage them to go to college.

John entered the US Army in 1952 during the Korean War. During his enlistment he obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and received the Presidential Unit Citation Medal from General Maxwell Taylor. He was honorably discharged in 1955 at Fort Carson, CO.

John was a Red Owl Grocery Manager for 25 years, a Cactus Concrete salesman for 5 years and a salesman for OK Distributing for 20 years. John loved family, rocks, cement, fixing stuff and astronomy, in that order. He was a member of First Lutheran Church. He was also a member of the Shriner's and a licensed airplane pilot.

On September 25, 1955 John was united in marriage to Doris Ann Brekhus in Norma, North Dakota. John loved being a family man; the couple had four daughters, Deb, Sam, Jinny and Roxy. They lived in Minot for 11 years, Grand Forks for a year, Kenmare and Bismarck for two years, and then settled in Williston where they lived for 42 years. Doris, his wife of fifty seven years preceded John in death on December 3, 2011. John missed Doris very much. He found a poem that summarized his feelings: "You've just walked on ahead of me and I've got to understand, you must release the ones you love and let go of their hand. I try and cope the best I can, but I'm missing you so much. If I could only see you and once more feel your touch. You've just walked on ahead of me. Don't worry, I'll be fine, but now and then I swear I feel your hand slip into mine."

John is survived by his daughters, Debbie Egeland of Bismarck, ND, Sandra "Sam" Seaton of Williston, ND, Jinny (Jody) Marmon of Wilder, ID and Roxy (Tim) Shilhanek of Billings, MT; six granddaughters, Vanessa and Macy Egeland, Cassandra and Bridget Seaton, Jessica (Daniele) Pinna and Tina (Paul) Simcox; two grandsons, Ryan (Tarin) and Corey Shilhanek; two great-granddaughters, Giuliana Pinna and Elena Shilhanek and ; great-grandson, Tavin Shilhanek; brothers, Ted, Larry, Jim, Bill, Pat and Tom; and sisters, Betty Huizenga, Mary Johnson and Dorothy Marquardt.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Doris; brother, Barney; sister, Laura Heinze; grandson, Sean Shilhanek; and son-in-law, Steve Egeland.



In Memory Of
John M. Kraft

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Date And Place Of Birth

September 26, 1935

Beulah, North Dakota

Date And Place of Death

May 1, 2013

Minot, North Dakota

Memorial Service

3:00 PM, Friday May 24, 2013

North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery

Mandan, North Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Steve Anderson

Urn Bearers

Floyd Marmon Tom Carns Tony Mello

Carl Bergman Don Gudmunsen

Honorary Bearers

All of John's Friends & Family

Military Honors

North Dakota Veteran's Honor Guard

Interment

North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery

Mandan, North Dakota

*God saw you getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come with Me."*

*With tearful eyes we watched you suffer
And saw you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating
Hard-working hands to rest;
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*



*You may share your remembrances and condolences
with the family at the Fulkerson Funeral Home website
www.fulkersons.com*