



courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respect · brave



"Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."  
-Benjamin Franklin

### Rod Bakken

*Born to James & Josephine Bakken*  
March 27, 1948 ~ Minot, North Dakota

*Returned to His Heavenly Father*  
October 12, 2020 ~ Grand Junction, Colorado

#### Funeral Service

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 11:00 AM  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church ~ Williston, North Dakota

**Officiating**  
Pastor Steve Anderson

**Special Remarks**  
Gary Skarphol

#### Music

"Jesus Loves Me" & "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"  
"It's Five O'clock Somewhere"

**Vocalist**  
Linda Clemes

**Accompanist**  
Pat Lund

**Honorary Urn Bearers**  
All of Rod's Family & Friends

**Military Honors**  
Williston Honor Guard  
North Dakota Honor Guard

**Final Resting Place**  
Faith Lutheran Cemetery ~ Rural Williston, North Dakota

**Arrangements By**  
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Williston, ND



*In Loving Memory Of*

### Rodney James Bakken "Rod"

March 27, 1948 - October 12, 2020

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."  
-Mark Twain

age · bravery · courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · resp



Rodney "Rod" James was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot, North Dakota on March 27, 1948. He was the oldest of five children. His family relocated to California when he was a year old.

After graduating from high school he began active duty with the Navy and was sent to Vietnam 1966-1968. Rod served on the Aircraft Carrier USS Ranger CVA61. When the Pueblo was captured by the North Koreans his ship was sent from Vietnam into waters off the coast of North Korea. He said that was the scariest time because of all the Russian ships surrounding them.

When Rod returned to California, he met the love of his life, Joanne Arlene. Just by chance, she was the new kid that had moved in across the street (and so Rod made his move too!)

Rod and Joanne were married in Seaside, California on October 10, 1970. In 1971 they moved to Carrington, North Dakota to operate the bar they had purchased. On their second anniversary, Troy was born. In 1977 their second son Jason arrived. Jeremy their third son, made his presence to the family in 1979. With more mouths to feed, Rod enlisted into the ND National Guard 164 Engineering Battalion. Rod proudly retired from the Army in 2008.

They relocated to Williston in 1982 where Rod became manager of Dakota Farms for eleven years, then the American Legion Club for seven years. Rod worked for Black Hills Trucking for a few years then Cross Country Courier for 5 years. Later he worked for CPS and then Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home.

Wintering in Clovis, New Mexico for a few years, gave Rod the opportunity to volunteer at the Lighthouse Mission. Everyday Rod enjoyed being able to help, visit and feed the homeless people.

Rod lived life to the fullest. He felt he was very lucky and fortunate to see his children grow up and was proud of the young men they had become. Rod loved the time he could spend with his family and grandchildren. Pranks, antics, jokes and laughter was an often occurrence at their home.

One of his favorite past times he enjoyed was watching his children and then his grandchildren play baseball. (Sorry Lacey, he never liked sixth-grade basketball, his comment....."I would rather watch chrome rust"!!)

He was preceded in death by his parents, Josephine Romanoski and James K. Bakken; his brother, Greg Bakken; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. (He had a good reunion when he entered the Pearly Gates.)

Rod is survived by his wife, Joanne; sons, Troy (Heidi), Jason (Kelly) and Jeremy (Stephanie); grandchildren, Lacey (Adam), Layne (Tierra), Taylor, Carter, Ely, Caleb, Cece, Greta, Chaz; great-grandchildren, Audrina, Aubriella, Camden, Ledger, Livia; sisters, Cathy, Debbie (Randy); brother, John (Stephanie).

