



Martin A. Wilke

October 18, 1945 - March 6, 2022

Martin Arthur Wilke died on March 6, 2022 at his home in Boise, Idaho after a seventeen-year struggle with mantle cell lymphoma. A graveside service will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to Platte Valley Humane Society or to Dog Is My Co-Pilot. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Boise, Idaho – Martin Arthur Wilke died on March 6, 2022 at his home in Boise, Idaho after a seventeen year struggle with mantle cell lymphoma. Martin was born in Columbus, Nebraska on October 18, 1945. He was the fourth of twelve children born to Arthur and Georgia (Frese) Wilke. Martin was raised on the family farm northeast of Columbus. He attended Christ Lutheran School through the eighth grade and later graduated from Columbus High School in 1964. He graduated from Wayne State College in 1968 after majoring in Art and Art Education. He taught school in Grand Rapids, MI and later in an area he came to love, the Upper Peninsula. After a number of years teaching, Martin pursued other interests in Colorado and later moved to Boise where he was employed selling livestock handling equipment for Valley Sales of Lexington, NE and Behlen Manufacturing of Columbus, NE. He retired in

2007.

Martin was an accomplished artist and his artwork was displayed in a number of galleries in the Midwest and West. In addition to the art that inspired him, he worked on sales brochures for the companies he represented.

In his younger years, Martin overcame his fear of flying by gaining his private pilot's license. He also became an experienced sky diver.

Martin loved the outdoors and often took his canoe and went off to camp in the forests of Idaho. Although he left Nebraska after his time at Wayne State, Martin was a lifelong fan of the Nebraska Huskers.

One of Martin's proudest accomplishments was his forty-two plus years of membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. After conquering his addiction with the help of AA, Martin was a mentor to many others, often traveling great distances to help where he could.

On November 25, 2000, Martin was united to marriage to Carol Parker in Boise. Following Martin's retirement, he and Carol enjoyed traveling to Alaska, New York, Washington, DC, Seattle, Portland and Atlanta to visit friends and relatives, many trips to the Nebraska Sandhills, and a special trip to New Zealand to visit Martin's brother, John.

Martin is survived by his wife, Carol, and her daughters, Julie Ours and Jennifer Wynn and their families. He is also survived by his sister, Audrey Sayers of Clarkson, NE, and brothers, Sidney (Martha) of Fort Lupton, CO, Philip (Leslie) of Moreno Valley, CA, David (Jean) of Granby, CO, Quentin (Marcille) of Garden City, KS, Clark (Kathy) of Osmond, NE, Colin (Janet) of Kearney, NE, John (Robyn) of Rotorua, New Zealand, Andrew (Donna) of Lincoln, NE, and Luke (Deborah) of Rochester, MN, numerous nieces and nephews, and Scout, the last of his many beloved dogs. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Gloria Miller in 2021, and brother-in-law, Ernest Sayers in 2020.

For seventeen years, the staff of doctors and nurses at St. Luke's Medical Center provided care for Martin. His family is very grateful for their services. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Boise, ID.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Graveside Service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Kearney Cemetery
4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Tribute Wall



“ *O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martin A. Wilke*



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - March 16, 2022
at 05:37 PM

BS

“ *Audrey, David, Luke and families, My sincere sympathy in the loss of Martin.*

Barb Schroeder - February 27, 2024 at 08:33 PM



“ *Martin A. Wilke*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM