

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it:

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me,"



The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I LOVE YOU and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints.

It was then that I carried you."

Robert was born October 30, 1938, in Leads, North Dakota to Orvel and Barbara Gustafson. He spent his early childhood on a farm near Temple, North Dakota. He attended elementary school at Lincoln Country School near Temple. He moved to Ray and graduated from Ray High School. During his high school days, Robert worked at a local grocery store to help support his family. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served his country during the Korean conflict.

Robert married Mary Bearden in 1958. A child, Mitch was born to this union. They later divorced.

In his early years Robert worked in the oilfield and spent time working in Alaska. He spent most of his life self-employed in the grain elevator business. In 1993, Robert and his son Richard started R & R Elevator repair service working side by side for the following 15 years. Robert never did retire! He went back to work in the oilfield for Basin Concrete. His most recent employment was with Schlumberger Rod Lift Inc. In April of 2016 at the age of 77 his health forced him to stop working.

Robert was united in marriage to Mildred Freed on August 26, 1967. They had two children, Richard in 1968 and Angie in 1971. Robert and Millie raised their children in his home town of Ray, ND where they resided until 1990. They moved to Southern California to be closer to their son who was stationed in the Marine Corp. During their three year stay Robert was maintenance manager of the apartment complex Millie managed. They moved to Williston, ND and Robert went back to the elevator business with his son Richard. It was at that time they started R & R Elevator Service.

Robert loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved to camp and fish with his family. When he wasn't fishing and hunting he was working in his yard and garden. Robert was known for his large garden and took great pleasure in giving fresh vegetables to family and friends. Robert, an avid Vikings fan, loved sports and followed his son, daughter, and grandchildren in all their sporting events.

Robert was a soft spoken, hardworking, intelligent loving man, who was always willing to help family and friends. He will be sorely missed by all.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years Mildred; one son, Richard (Laurie) of Williston; six grandchildren, Alex Haas, Jordan (Deryl) Ditch, Randi Gustafson, Bailey Gustafson, Brittany Adams and Tyler Adams; step-grandchildren Sarah and Jocelyn Walz; six great grandchildren; six sisters, Lynn (Dave Thompson) of Spokane, WA; Dorelee (Melly) Hodenfield of Ray, ND; Veronica (Dale) Flaten of Ray, ND; Sheila (Chuck) Berntsen of Minot, ND; Yvonne (Everett) Gibbins of Williston, ND; and Carol (Jerry) Zunich of Williston, ND; a brother, Orvel Jr. (Carolyn) Gustafson of Casper WY and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son Mitch and Daughter Angela. His parents, Orvel and Barbara; and his siblings Donny and Judy.



In Loving Memory Of

Robert Clayton Gustafson

October 30, 1938 - July 6, 2017



In Loving Memory Of Robert Clayton Gustafson

Born to Orvel & Barbara Gustafson
October 30, 1938 ~ Leeds, North Dakota

Returned to His Heavenly Father
July 6, 2017 ~ Bismarck, North Dakota

Funeral Services

11:00 o'clock on Thursday, July 13, 2017
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Williston, North Dakota

Officiating

Father Joseph Evinger

Music

Kim Semenko ~ Vocalist
GP Eleria & Sarah Anderson ~ Accompanist

Honorary Urn Bearers

All of Robert's Family & Friends

Final Resting Place

St. Michael's- Highland Cemetery
Ray, North Dakota

Arrangements By

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home -Williston

