



Donald Roland Swenson

October 23, 1946 - October 1, 2012

Donald R. "Butch" Swenson, Jr. was born October 23, 1946 in Fairmont, Minnesota to Donald and Charlotte (Gaskill) Swenson. The family moved to Valley, Nebraska where Butch grew up and attended school, graduating from Valley High School in 1965.

Butch enlisted in the United States Army in April 1966, and served in Viet Nam, working in the motor pool. He was honorably discharged in April 1968. Butch was the proud father of three children: Kristina, Doug, and Sue. He raised his family in Valley, and remained there with his 2nd wife, Marilee (Mulholland) Swenson. They were married April 29, 1978 in Kansas City, Missouri. Marilee preceded Butch in death in April 2008.

Butch held many jobs throughout his life. He worked for: International in Fremont, NE, as a truck driver for Bell Creek, Prairie Ford Truck Sales, with Marilee at P.J.'s Inn, and as the owner and mechanic at Don's Auto. He loved working on anything with his hands, and was constantly building and rebuilding motors, or tearing something apart to rebuild it.

Butch enjoyed mysteries, and caring for his two Doberman's: Jake and Sami. He had a quick wit and a dry sense of humor, and was both mentally and physically strong. He adored his grandkids, and looked forward to the holidays. Butch was especially proud of the birth of his kids and grandkids, and cherished time with his family. He loved old country music and cheering for the Huskers and Rutgers, and could often be heard saying, "all you got in life is time and talent" or "when it's no longer fun, it's time to stop." His family

will remember Butch as a man who was rough on the outside, but was a big “softie” on the inside. He led the whole family when his dad left, and helped anyone who asked.

Don passed away at his home in Valley, Nebraska on Monday, October 1, 2012 at the age of 65 years, 11 months, and 8 days. He was preceded in death by parents, wife Marilee, brother Rick, brother-in-law Sherman Chard, and grandson Nicholas Carder. Butch is survived by son Doug (Lori) Swenson of Valley, NE daughters: Kristina (Eric) Hermanson of Valley, NE, Sue (Royce) Benefiel of Oklahoma City, OK, stepchildren: Joni (Sid) Gonsoulin of Hattiesburg, MS, Cari (Steve) Ferree of Valley, NE, Tony Witte of Hattiesburg, MS, 18 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, siblings: Diane Chard of Fremont, NE, Sue Swenson of Texas, Robert Swenson, Roger Swenson, and Lori Holmquest, all of Fremont, and special friend Jennifer Nicola.

Donald R. “Butch” Swenson, Jr., age 65, of Valley, NE, died 10/1/12. Preceded in death by parents, wife Marilee, brother Rick, brother-in-law Sherman Chard, and grandson Nicholas Carder. Survived by son Doug (Lori) Swenson, Valley, daughters: Kristina (Eric) Hermanson, Valley, Sue (Royce) Benefiel, Oklahoma City, OK, stepchildren: Joni (Sid) Gonsoulin, Hattiesburg, MS, Cari (Steve) Ferree, Valley, Tony Witte, Hattiesburg, MS, 18 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, siblings: Diane Chard, Fremont, Sue Swenson Texas, Robert Swenson, Roger Swenson, and Lori Holmquest, all of Fremont, and special friend Jennifer Nicola.

Funeral service 11 AM Friday, 10/5/12 at the funeral home. Interment with military honors Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn. Visitation Thursday from Noon to 8 PM with the family receiving friends from 6-8 PM at the funeral home. Memorials to the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Roland Swenson*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *From the Gaskill's in Iowa City & Biloxi (Kay, Kim, Tammie & Amy Gaskill), we send our thoughts for the family. While I never knew Butch, I heard many stories from my dad (Bob). Dad often talked of Charlotte as well. I feel like I am looking in a mirror when I see Butch's picture. Dad always said I looked like Charlotte. We were unable to reach anyone in your family when Dad passed away on March 7, 2008. My mom (Kay Gaskill) has tried to reach Diane --- could you have her call my mom, Kay Gaskill at 319.351.1589. Fondly, Kim Gaskill...Butch's cousin.*

Kim Gaskill - October 09, 2012 at 10:33 PM



“ *our thoughts & prayers are with you. Butch was the best mechanic around! We are glad to have known him!*

Kenny & Carol Harlow - October 04, 2012 at 08:56 PM



“ *Sending caring thoughts to Butch's family. Hoping your memories will bring smiles with time. He took good care of my car and I appreciated his honesty. Always liked giving the dogs pets, too.*

Judith Mena - October 04, 2012 at 08:21 PM



“ *Love you dad...*

susie - October 03, 2012 at 01:51 PM

DW

I had a very vivid dream last night where I was in this guys shop and he was showing me around. He was showing me some of the cool old stuff he had collected over the years, engines he had rebuilt, piles of old parts, cars out back, etc.

He was a big guy with a big smile and seemed genuinely pleased that I was interested in all of his stuff and seemed to be having a really good time showing me around.

At one point I asked him his name and he said "They call me Butch." I asked him where he lived and he said he lived in Elkhorn Valley. I woke up right after, but couldn't shake the dream...it was so vivid and so real down to the smells in the shop, the wind outside, the sounds of us digging through his piles of old parts and stuff.

As soon as I got up, I googled "Elkhorn Valley, Butch" and this is what popped up.

This is absolutely the guy I was talking to...

Darren Wozniak - July 05, 2019 at 11:07 AM