



Duane S. Prorok

November 8, 1938 - November 23, 2025

Duane S Prorok, age 87, was born November 8, 1938 at home on a farm north of Monroe, NE to Sylvester and Clara (Jazwiec) Prorok. They lived on several farms (wherever his folks could find farm work). At the age of 4, Duane rode his pony “Pete” horseback (they couldn’t afford a saddle) with a neighbor to a one room schoolhouse about 1½ miles away. From there he graduated 8th grade. As a Junior, the family moved to a cattle ranch near Genoa, NE. In summers Duane worked whatever farm jobs he could find and played football during the school year, (a 135lb right guard). It was at Genoa High School that he literally ran into Zita in the hall on her first day there. Duane graduated at the age of 16.

Being too young to get a factory job, Duane left home and “hitched a ride” to Omaha with cattle buyers and got an office job, while each weekend “hitching a ride” to Genoa to see Zita, his sweetheart. Next it was off to Columbus looking for a job. Irrigation Pump Company didn’t bother to ask how old he was, so they put him to work.

Duane and Zita were married on January 4, 1958.

At 18 he went to work for Behlen Mfg. as an Assembly Operator. After two years of machining experience, he was promoted to Tool and Die Machinist and started night school studying basic engineering. He was promoted to

Engineering Drafting and then Machine Design.

In 1966, with Zita 8 months pregnant and five children, Duane accepted a Machine Design Engineer job at Valley Mfg. Co in Valley, now Valmont. After studying nights and weekends he passed his Nebraska Professional Engineer Exam and was then promoted to Manager of the Manufacturing Irrigation Division. He was promoted to Vice President of Operations for the Tubing Division. Duane worked as the Project Engineer for Coatings, designing and coordinating galvanizing facilities throughout the world. In 2013, after nearly 46 years at Valmont, he retired.

Duane always said he married his “high school sweetheart”. They loved their family dearly and set a great example of marriage and family life. The couple enjoyed playing tennis and traveling. After 46 years of marriage Zita died of Multiple Myeloma. Duane was happy to meet and share the last 15 years with his companion, Sharon McDonald.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, Sylvester and Clara; brother, Melvin (Dee) Prorok and in-laws, Jacob and Mary Kuntz; son, Philip Prorok and daughter, Christine (Mark) Jensen.

He will be greatly missed by his family including son, Gregory (Linda) Prorok and their daughters Jalayne (Samantha) Prodel, and Kara Prorok; son-in-law, Mark Jensen and children Bradley (Tiffany) Jensen, Brenton (Jenn) Jensen, and Ashley (Andrew) Kokke; daughter, Vicki (Douglas) Heeren and their daughters Sr. Mary Consolation of the Afflicted SSVM, and Jessica (Jeff) Brady; son, Ronald (Melissa) Prorok and their children Alexander (Francis) Prorok, Sydney (Austin) Fish, and Samuel Prorok; and son, Patrick Prorok; along with eleven great grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 - 10:30 AM on Tuesday, November 25, 2025

at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 307 E. Meigs St. Valley, NE 68064 with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 10:30 AM. Interment at Pleasant View Cemetery in Leshara, NE.

Memorials may be directed to Siena Francis House.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant View Cemetery

Lashera, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
307 E Miegs
Valley, NE 68064

Mass of the Christian Burial

NOV **25**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
307 E Miegs
Valley, NE 68064

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *My condolences to you all. God Bless and thanks for the Love your dad shared and showed me.*

Denny Reis - November 29, 2025 at 11:20 PM

LB

“ *Greg, Phil, Chris, Vickie, Ronnie & Pat, I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad. Our family & yours grew up together & I have lots of great memories. All of you were instrumental in my growing up. Sending you love, hugs and I hope we can stay in touch as time goes by. Love, Linda Burns*

Linda Burns - November 26, 2025 at 12:23 PM

KD

“ *I already miss you beyond belief Duane. You were given many gifts and you used them well succeeding in so many ways. Your faith in God was exceptional and you were an excellent and positive role model to many. I am so thankful to call you friend, cousin, family. Peace be with you.*

Kathleen Dubas - November 26, 2025 at 09:25 AM

KK

“ I am so sorry to have missed the funeral today because of work. The Prorock family is part of the fabric of my growing up at St. John's and with Phil as my classmate and Greg and Christine in school around the same time. I have a photo somewhere of Vicki in a CCD class I taught, and it has been a pleasure to know that they and Ron and Patrick are all creative, wonderful people. Duane was always so kind to me, and when he saw Keith would make it a point to ask after me and send me greetings and compliments. What a good life he has lived! Now his story goes on with his children and grandchildren. You've all been in my fervent prayers, and I will continue to pray. Blessings, Kate McArdle Knudsen

Kathleen Knudsen - November 25, 2025 at 03:42 PM

KD

“ I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the service. Duane is a cousin who I admired for his resilience over the years in dealing with adversity as well as finding joy in the creation of his family with Zita. He was a great nephew to my mother and when my brother died Duane became a person providing my mother with great comfort which continued until her death. Duane was also a frequent contact for my sister who enjoyed their conversations over the years. The Prorok family is in my thoughts and prayers as they attend to Duane's passing.

Keith Dubas - November 25, 2025 at 11:21 AM

CN

“ As a kid in the 70's I knew Duane and his energy and work ethic was always an inspiration to me. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Duane. Peace be with you all. Curt Novotny

Curt Novotny - November 24, 2025 at 05:55 PM

TW

“ Tom Whalen purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Duane S. Prorok.



Tom Whalen - November 24, 2025 at 01:58 PM

TW

“ Tom Whalen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Duane S. Prorok.

Tom Whalen - November 24, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Duane S. Prorok.



November 24, 2025 at 01:25 PM

KS

“ This is so odd to see this. He literally popped into my mind yesterday I believe it was! So sorry to hear that this sweet man has passed on to greener pastures. I'm sure that he will be greatly missed but will definitely enjoy heaven! Bless his big heart!

Kathy Shunk - November 24, 2025 at 12:32 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Duane S. Prorok.* ”



November 24, 2025 at 10:15 AM