

Duane E. Rohde

January 15, 1930 – January 15, 2015

Duane E. Rohde of Watertown, South Dakota, passed away on his 85th birthday, January 15, 2015, at Jenkins Living Center in Watertown.

Duane was born on January 15, 1930, in Loyal, Wisconsin, to Earl and Berenice (Davey) Rohde. He attended schools for the Deaf in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and Devils Lake, North Dakota, graduating from the North Dakota School for the Deaf in 1952.

On December 26, 1953, he married Jona Burkle in Watertown. They shared 61 years of marriage and raised three children.

Duane worked for the Watertown Public Opinion newspaper for 43 years, beginning as a linotype operator and later working as a printer and press operator. He retired in 1995. He also worked for many years as a self-employed, part-time custodian at Watertown City Hall.

A loyal member and strong supporter of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf for more than 52 years, Duane maintained lasting connections within the Deaf community. Family, friends, and coworkers remembered him especially for his sense of humor. He delighted in making others laugh with his jokes, stories, and playful pranks.

Duane enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. He was also a devoted Green Bay Packers fan whose enthusiasm for his team remained with him throughout his life.

He was survived by his wife, Jona; his children, Peter Rohde and his wife, Audrey, of Watertown; Andy Rohde and his wife, Diane, of Peoria, Arizona; and Jenna Kannas and her husband, Kevin, of Watertown; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings.

A private family memorial service was held on January 22, 2015, followed by a celebration-of-life open house at Crawford Funeral Chapel in Watertown. He was laid to rest at Mount Hope Cemetery in Watertown.

