

Paul Raymond Berka

November 9, 1951 – November 12, 2011

Paul R. Berka, of Brandon, South Dakota, passed away at age 60 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Paul battled cancer for approximately two and a half years.

Paul was born on November 9, 1951, to Frank and Marie (Kinzie) Berka in Tyndall, South Dakota. He grew up on a family farm and attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD). As a high school student at SDSD, he loved helping the maintenance workers. He was also always willing to help the dormitory and kitchen staff with various jobs, especially on Saturdays.

After high school, Paul worked at Tyndall John Deere for four years, Tyndall Chevrolet and Stinson Chevrolet for three years, John Morrell for nine years, and Soukup Services for 14 years. He later worked at CSD Lawn & Snow Removal for another nine years. He was a lifelong member of the South Dakota Association for the Deaf and South Dakota Deaf Anglers.

Paul was well known for helping those who needed assistance with their vehicles. His favorite hobbies were riding his Harley, fishing, and hunting.



Paul Berka, middle front row, as ninth grade during 1968-69 school year.

He is survived by his four brothers, James (Bonnie) of Salem, Oregon; Emil of Seattle, Washington; Charles (Lynn) of Aumsville, Oregon; and Edward of Tyndall, South Dakota; his three nephews, Justin Schenkel of Tyndall, Mike (Sandy) Schenkel of Avon, and Joey (Becky) Schenkel of South Korea; his brother-in-law, Dave Schenkel of Tyndall; his niece, Jodi (Gary) Eich of Silverton, Oregon; and his special friends, Larry Fahy and Marge Morse, both of Sioux Falls.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Mary Schenkel.



Paul Berka enjoyed fishing on the river near Chamberlain during the 2003 South Dakota Deaf Anglers tourney.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf. A visitation had been scheduled for one hour before the service, but did not take place because of bad weather.

In lieu of flowers, contributions were requested for the Paul Berka Memorial Tree Fund, for a tree to be planted at Communication Service for the Deaf, 102 N. Krohn Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion was in charge of arrangements.