

Ronald Wayne "Ron" Lerdal

March 17, 1954 – January 11, 2004

Ronald Wayne "Ron" Lerdal, 49, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away at his home on Sunday, January 11, 2004.

Ron was born on March 17, 1954, in Sioux Falls to Merle and Madeline (Monger) Lerdal. He attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD), graduating in 1973. During his school years, he participated in cross-country, basketball, and track. Remembered as easygoing and well liked, Ron worked hard and put the success of his school and teammates first.



One of his memorable athletic achievements was playing in the starting lineup of SDSD's 1972–73 basketball team, which finished as runner-up in the 1973 District Tournament. SDSD defeated Harrisburg in the semifinals before falling to Parker in the championship game.



After graduation, Ron continued playing basketball and softball with the Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf (SFAD). He traveled to Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf (MAAD) tournaments and was known as a good basketball guard and softball pitcher. He also enjoyed following sports on television and in the Argus Leader.

Ron's work history included a short time at Schwartz's Manufacturing, several years at John Morrell and Company, where he worked in various departments until 1986, and approximately three years at Costello. He later spent nine years with Soukup Services, owned and operated by his former classmate and friend David Soukup, caring for lawns and removing snow. On July 1, 2002, he joined the maintenance crew at Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD), where he remained until his death.

A dependable and steady worker, Ron understood and practiced a good work ethic. He respected his supervisors, got along well with his coworkers, and was valued by those who worked alongside him.



Ron loved hunting and fishing. Some of his favorite summer days were spent fishing on the Missouri River, at nearby lakes, or on trips to Canada. He belonged to the South Dakota Deaf Anglers and participated in fishing derbies. He also enjoyed woodworking, carpentry, and doing roofing work with his good friend Donald Servold. Ron was a member of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf (SDAD) for 30 years and was also a member of SFAD.

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Tenderhearted and caring, Ron made friends easily and was quick to help anyone in need. At his funeral, his friend Larry Puthoff delivered a eulogy that reflected Ron's kindness and the friendships he had built. His quiet smile and caring spirit will long be cherished by those who knew him.

Ron is survived by his brothers, Steve Lerdal and his wife, Judy, of Hawarden, Iowa, and Jim Lerdal and his wife, Angie, of Brookings, South Dakota; his sister, Jeanne Oolman and her husband, Joel, of Marshall, Minnesota; his niece, nephews, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gary; his sisters, Jewyll Sponheim and Joanne Lerdal; and three infant siblings.

Funeral services were held on January 15, 2004, at Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls, with the Reverend Joanne Lemme officiating. Burial followed at Highland Cemetery near Sherman, South Dakota.

Pallbearers were Dave Soukup, Paul Berka, Mike Cragoe, John Pibal, Brad Scheppi, and Robert Zimmer. Ron's niece and nephews served as honorary pallbearers.

