



News-Record Obituaries

May 2007 obits

— RODNEY EVELAND (5/10/07)

Funeral services for Rodney "Rod" Paul Eveland, 63, of Gillette will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Gillette with the Rev. Scott Firminhac officiating.

Burial will follow in Mount Pisgah Cemetery with full military honors provided by American Legion Post 42. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

With his family at his side, Mr. Eveland died of cancer Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at Campbell County Memorial Hospital.

He was born March 27, 1944, to Gladys M. (Stipp) Bonneville and Richard P. Eveland in Chester, Mont., where he was raised and educated, and graduated from high school in 1962.

In the fall of 1962, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Oceanographic Unit during the "Cold War." He served for six years and earned the rank of (E-5) before his honorable discharge in 1968.

While in the U.S. Navy, he was assigned to the USNS Dutton and served as a navigation systems technician establishing one of the first GPS systems. He was an excellent computer diagnostician. He received the National Defense Service Medal and a commendation for his service.

On April 17, 1971, he married La Vonne Kathleen Schmiede in Zimmerman, Minn. They were married for 36 years. They had two children, Mark and Rachel. He joined IBM in February 1967 with a short jaunt at a subsidiary of IBM, Technology Services Solutions until his death. He worked for them for more than 40 years. He and his family lived in several states before making Gillette their home in 1985.

He loved to garden and he especially loved fruit trees. He enjoyed his tropical fish, he liked birds and photography and loved to shop and use computers. Playing bridge and other card games with his family and friends was his pastime that he took seriously and applied his sense of strategy.

He loved to work on the crossword puzzles in the newspaper, spending many Sundays at LuLa Belle's Caf/ engaging the employees to help. Mr. Eveland was a people person. He liked to write editorials, practicing his writing and voicing his opinions. He was published in a gardening magazine, Pamona, The News-Record, Denver Post, Great Falls Times, Timber Press, Bozeman, Casper Star-Tribune and the Billings Gazette.

He joined Toastmasters in April 1987; he held the position of president, secretary, sergeant at arms, vice president of public relations and vice president of education. He became a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in September, 1985. He served the church

as an usher and was on the building committee, was an evangelist chair, did computer maintenance with his friend, Swede Heimgartner. They would do many anonymous deeds of kindness.

He had a great sense of humor that has carried him through his lifetime and through his illness. He was devoted to his family, church and community, always trying to make things better than they were.

Mr. Eveland is survived by his wife; his children, Mark Eveland of Gillette and Rachel Eldeen of Billings, Mont.; his mother of Lafayette, Ore.; his brother, Gary Eveland of Lafayette, Ore.; his stepbrother, Stephen Bonneville of Aloha, Ore.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father; stepmother, Ester Eveland; and stepfather, Ivan Bonneville.

Memorials and condolences may be sent in his name in care of Walker Funeral Home, 410 Medical Arts Court, Gillette, WY, 82716 or via the Internet at www.walkerfuneralgillette.com.