

David A. Birchem, 78, Detroit Lakes, MN, died Saturday, June 9, 2018 at Essentia Health in Fargo, North Dakota..



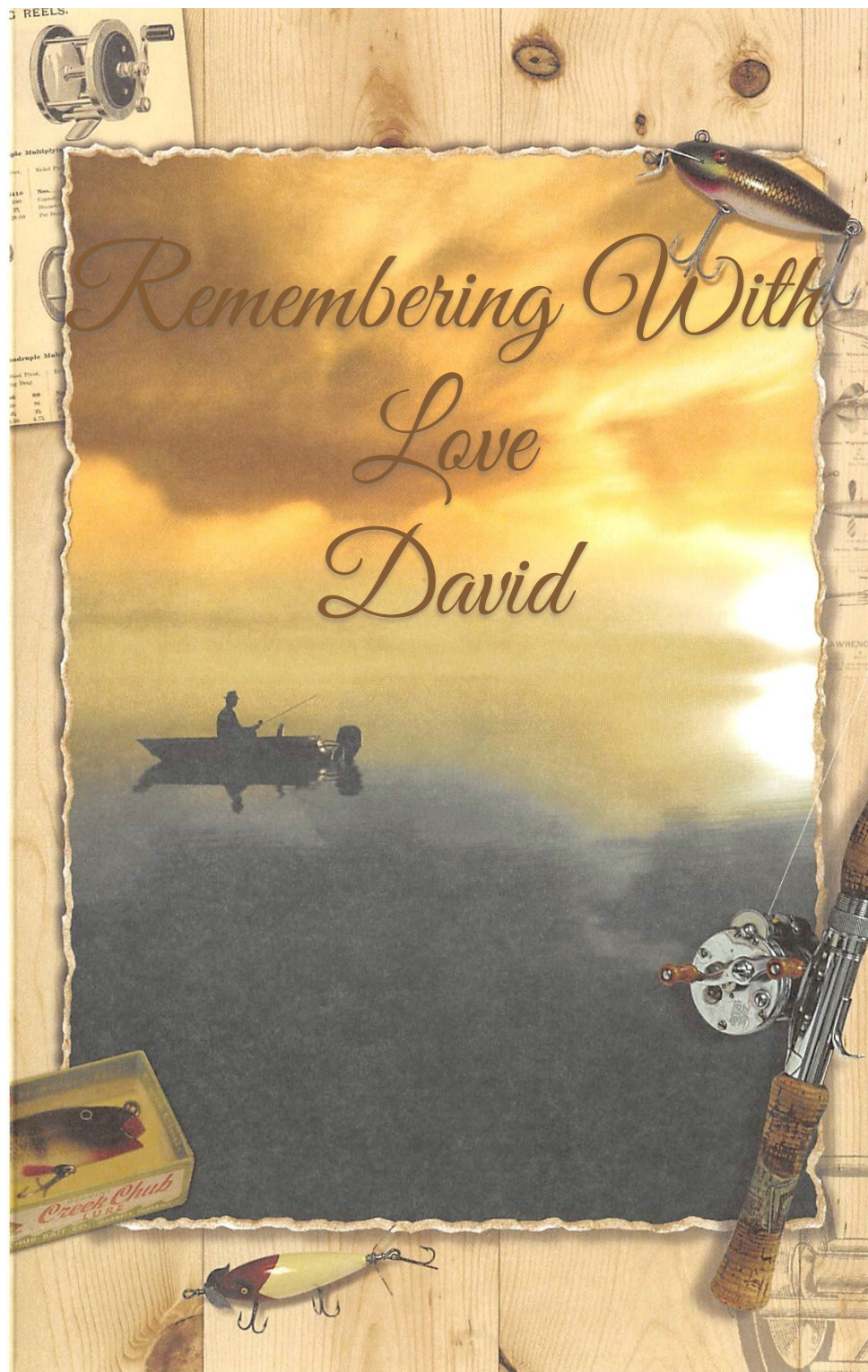
David Allen Birchem was born March 1, 1940 in Sisseton, SD to Victor and Hazel (O'Brien) Birchem. He was raised on a farm near Sisseton and is a 1958 graduate of St. Francis Academy in Hankinson, ND. Following graduation, Dave attended Dakota Business College in Fargo, ND. Dave married his high school sweetheart, Norma Schiltz, August 9, 1960 in Hankinson. They moved to Grand Forks where Dave was the bookkeeper for a gas station. He worked as a compliance officer for the U. S. Department of Labor from

1961 – 1995, living in a number of communities. They moved to Detroit Lakes, MN in 1995 where he was active with the Mahube Tax Assistance Program; the 412 Lakes Classic Car Club, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the Holy Rosary Council, Knights of Columbus and the Lets Go Fishing Program.

Dave and Norma were also well known for their road trips in their Ford Model A, having gone to Kansas, Colorado and Iowa among other places.

Survivors include his wife, Norma of Detroit Lakes, a daughter, Stacy (Rick) Perdue of W. Des Moines, IA, a son, Bryan (Mary) Birchem of O'Fallon, IL, six grandchildren: Cathy, Anne, Andrew, Victoria, McKayla, Kyle; sisters and brothers: Regina Birchem of Minneapolis, MN, Stanley (Pat) Birchem of Leon, IA, Anita (Leon) Aldentaler of Britton, SD, Michael (Sandi) Birchem of Mason City, IA and Marie (Joe) Pletka of Omaha, NE.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Scott and Christopher and three sisters, Jane Birchem, Dorothy Birchem and Rachel Retterath.





Our Hero

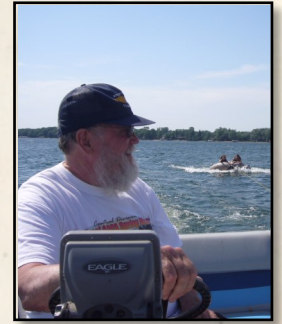
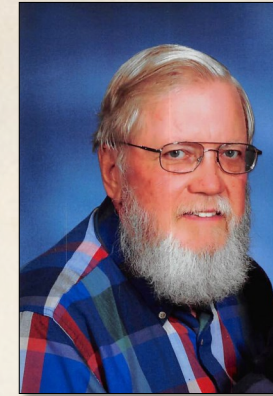
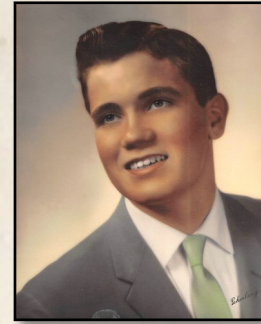
*As we ponder the love that we saw in his eyes,
A Godly love, given without compromise....
We recall many times that he stood by our side,
And prodded us on with great vigor and pride.
His voice ever confident, firm and yet fair,
Always speaking with patience, tenderness and care.
The power and might of his hands was so sure,
we knew there was nothing we couldn't endure.
It's true; a few others provided insight,
Yet, he laid the foundation that kept us upright.
He's the grandest of men to have lived on this earth,
Although he's not royal by stature or birth.
He's a man of great dignity, honor and strength.
His merits are noble, and of admirable length.
He's far greater than all other men that we know,
And that is why we love him so.*



In Loving Memory of

David Allen Birchem

March 1, 1940 ~ June 9, 2018



Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday - June 16, 2018 - 1:00 PM

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

*Monsignor Timothy McGee, **Celebrant***

Readers

*Mary Catherine Birchem
Victoria Birchem*

Gift Bearers

*Kyle & McKayla
Perdue*

Special Music

*Scott Mehlhaff, **Organist and Accompanist***

The Resurrection Choir

Casket Bearers

Bryan Birchem, Stacy Perdue, Andrew Birchem

Anne Birchem and Joe Pletka

Honorary Casket Bearers

David's Brothers and Sisters

Stanley Birchem, Anita Aldentaler, Michael Birchem

Marie Pletka and Regina Birchem

September Interment

St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery

Rosholt, South Dakota