

Rodger Lee Coquette, 79, of Fisher, MN, died peacefully in the Benedictine Living Community Crookston on Thursday morning, June 13, 2024.

Rodger was born on November 30, 1944, in Crookston, the first of 2 sons of Lloyd and Edith (Larson) Coquette. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Anne's Catholic Church, and grew up on the family's farm in Andover township with his younger brother, Jimmie, better known as "JC". Rodger began his education in Crookston Public Schools and later attended Central High School, where he wrestled and graduated with the Class of 1962. After working for a season with his father on the farm, he enrolled at Moorhead (MN) State College and earned his Bachelor of science degree before accepting a position teaching history in the Melrose, MN, school district. On September 26, 1968, Rodger enlisted in the US Army and soon found himself on patrol in the jungles of Vietnam. After a year-long tour facing combat situations almost daily, he returned stateside and was honorably discharged from active to reserve duty on May 6, 1970. In recognition of his heroic and patriotic service to his country, Sgt. Rodger L. Coquette was awarded the Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal, and Nation Defense Medal.

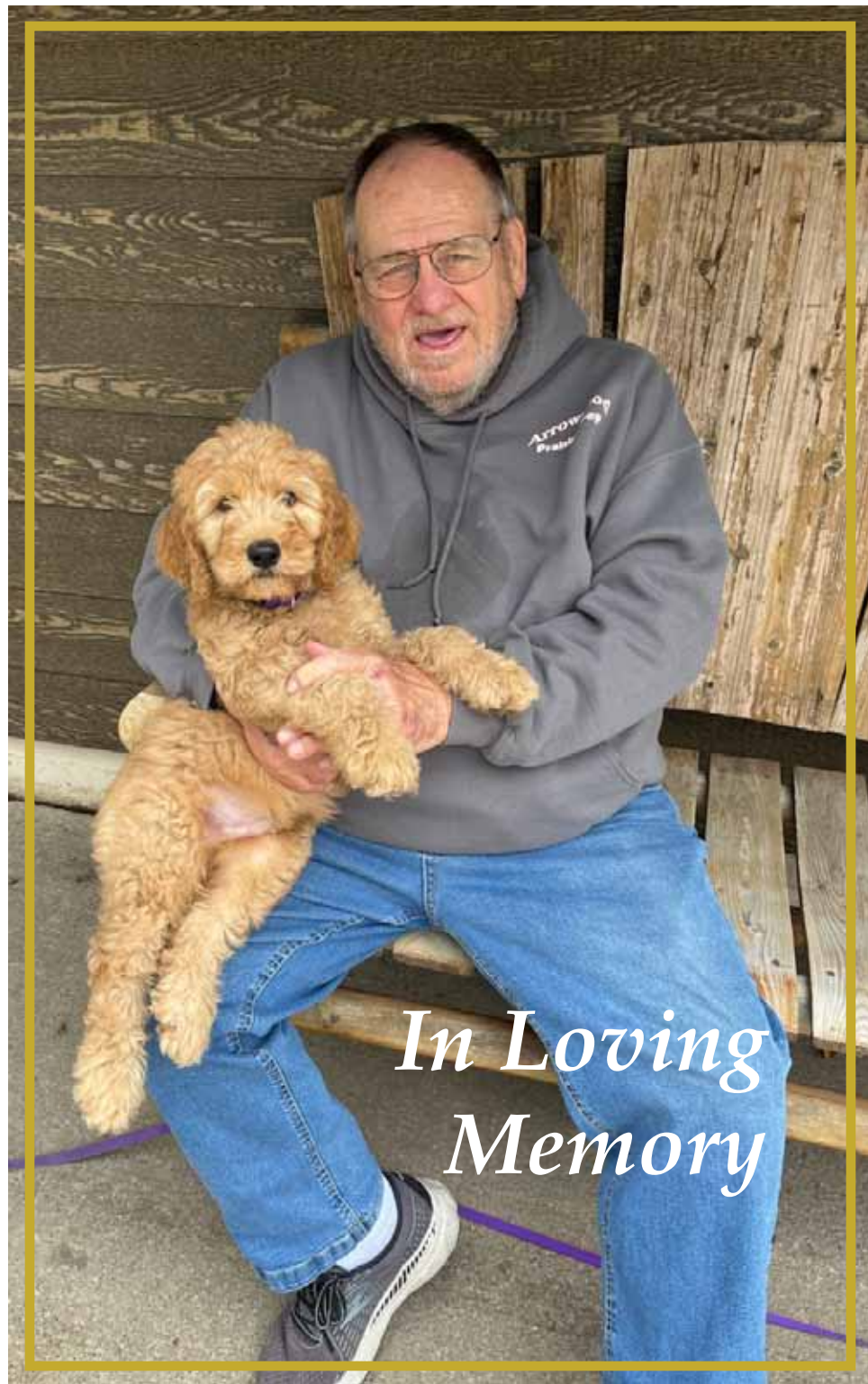
Once back in Crookston, Rodger began working as a deputy with the Polk County Sheriff's Department and on November 27, 1971, was united in marriage to Jacalyn Marie Langlois at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gentilly. While making their home in Crookston, he and Jackie were blessed in coming years by the births of 4 wonderful daughters: Kelsie, Kimberly, Stacey, and Brittany. Being the only male in a home of 6 meant his patience was often tested, but there was no father prouder of his girls than Rodger. In the mid-1970's he began working for the State of Minnesota Office of Employment and Economic Development as a Rehabilitation Counseling Supervisor. Being able to make a difference in the lives of so many brought immense satisfaction to Rodger as he looked back over a 25-year long career of service to others. Not quite ready to completely retire, he then spent another 10 years with the Northwest Private Industry Council before officially stepping back in 2010.

Rodger was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception parish; also held memberships with the Crookston VFW Post and Eagles Aerie; and served on the Crookston Public Library and Crookston Park Boards. After moving to Fisher, MN, in 2005, he became very active in the Fisher American Legion and was the Post's treasurer for many years.

Rodger was an avid baseball fan cheering for the Yankees since he was a young lad. In his retirement, he attended games at every major league baseball park in the country and introduced each one of his 13 grandchildren to baseball while taking them to Fargo RedHawks and MN Twins games. The memories made from those outings will remain in the hearts of his grandkids for the rest of their lives. Rodger was a history buff, with a particular interest in the evolutions of baseball and the military, both very important facets of his life. He enjoyed quiet time reading and was often reading several books at the same time. He also enjoyed working in his garden.

Rodger was the very proud father of 4 daughters and sons-in-law: Kelsie and Chris Knecht of Hillsboro, ND, Kimberly and Justin Cook of Carrington, ND, Stacey and Michael Smith of Jamestown, ND, and Brittany and Ryan Moen of Bloomington, MN; 13 beloved grandchildren who brought him immense joy: Lloyd, Leah, Carter, and Ellianna Knecht; Mya, Mason, Lydia, and Fisher Cook; Haden, Peyton, and Owen Smith; and Evelyn and Franklin Moen. Rodger is also survived by the mother of their girls, Jackie Coquette of Crookston; his puppy, Charlie; his sister-in-law, Shirley Coquette of Crookston; niece, Kristin Coquette and her husband, Mike, of Lake Havasu City, AZ; great-nephew, Ethan Johnson of Crookston; great-niece, Kate Johnson of Lake Havasu City; extended family; and many friends. Rodger was welcomed to heaven by his parents, Lloyd and Edith; and brother, JC, who passed away on July 24, 2018.

Blessed be the memory of Rodger Lee Coquette.



IN LOVING MEMORY
Rodger Lee Coauette

November 30, 1944 - June 13, 2024

Prayer Service and Memory Sharing

Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home - Crookston, Minnesota
Led by Msgr. David Baumgartner
"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" by Rodger's Grandchildren
"Amazing Grace" Congregational Hymn

The Mass of Christian Burial

Monday, June 24, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception - Crookston, MN
Msgr. David Baumgartner, presiding
The Rev. Larry Wieseler, homilist

Scripture

Andy Coauette, reader
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11
Response: Psalm 104 "Lord, Send Out Your Spirit"
Philippians 3:20-21

Homily

Gospel 12:23-26 - Fr. Larry Wieseler

Communion Hymns

"On Eagle's Wings"
"Seeds Scattered and Sown"
Jim Kent, cantor
Kim Kroll, organist

Solo

"How Great Thou Art" by Jim Kent

Farewell

"Song of Farewell"

Leaving Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

Casket Bearers

Rodger's Sons-in-Law and Grandsons
Chris Knecht Michael Smith Justin Cook
Ryan Moen Haden Smith Mason Cook

Honorary Casket Bearers

Rodger's Beloved Grandchildren

Graveside Service

Monday, June 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Greenwood Cemetery - Fisher, MN

Military Honors by

Fisher American Legion Post MN National Guard Funeral Honors Team

*We would like to sincerely thank everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy and the comfort they have given to us.
Kelsie, Kimberly, Stacey, Brittany, Jackie and Families*



God looked around His garden and found an empty place.

Then He looked upon this earth and saw your tired face.

He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain,

He knew you never would get well,

Upon this earth again.

He put His arms around you

And lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful,

For He takes only the best.

