

Remembering the life of... Bob Sailor

Robert L. Sailor, age 71, and known to many as (Pudge), passed away December 2, 2023 at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, ND. He was born on July 24, 1952 in Devils Lake to Phyllis (Tofsrud) and Ray Sailor. He was raised in Rural Devils Lake all of his life, with five brothers and two sisters.

On May 14, 1971, he married his high school sweetheart, Veronica (Shipley) Sailor at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Devils Lake. They built their life, raising three daughters, Tina, Tonya, and Teri whom he loved more than anything.

At the age of 16, Robert became a heavy equipment operator, working for Strong's Excavating in Devils Lake for many years. He was known for being one of the best operators in the area. Robert went on to work for Dean Black of Black Construction in Devils Lake running heavy equipment for over 30 years, until declining health forced him to retire.

Robert's true pride and joy was his children and grandchildren, actively participating in their lives. His grandsons were the boys he never had and was extremely supportive and close to them all. He would often say that he had a favorite granddaughter, (being his only granddaughter), they had a special relationship.

He had a passion for animals, raising cattle and horses for many years. In his earlier years, he enjoyed trail rides with his family, taking his daughters to horse shows, and spending time with his family. Until recently, he enjoyed his weekly trips to Lake Region Livestock Barn in Devils Lake. He also enjoyed his daily morning coffee at the White House Cafe with friends.

He made some special friendships with those who cared for him in Dialysis. So much so, the nurses nicknamed him "the silver fox". He was very proud of his long, silver hair (and that nickname). He often referred to himself as the silver fox to anyone that would listen, and he was never without his black comb for his hair.

Robert is survived by his loving family, including his wife, Veronica of Devils Lake and daughters; Tina (Jon) Haugen of Menoken, ND, Tonya (Trevor) Sailor of Devils Lake and Teri (Troy) DeMarais of Devils Lake. Grandchildren; Wyatt (Aliyah) Hoyt, Laine (Jakenda) Hoyt, Dalton (Kailey) Baum, Zachary (Shentelle) Haugen, Colby Haugen, Brianna Champagne, and Braeden Crawford. Brothers; Jim (Julie) Sailor, Barry Sailor, Brian Sailor, all of Devils Lake, and Ray Sailor, Chicago Ill. Sisters; Marilyn Schall of Devils Lake and Margaret Liska of Hillsboro, ND, Sisters In Law, Mary Sailor, Jackie (Tim) Lee, and Micky Shipley, Brothers In Law; Gordy (Shirley) Shipley, Kirk Shipley, Dallas (Melissa) Shipley, George (Trudy) Shipley, and Pat (Mary) Shipley. Many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ray and Phyllis Sailor, brother Gary Sailor, brother in law Pete Schall, mother in law Evelyn Olson, step father in law Leroy Olson, and father in law George Shipley Jr.

In Loving Memory





Forever Loved, Forever In Our Hearts

Robert L. Sailor

“Pudge”

*Our Precious Husband, Dad, Grandpa,
Brother, Uncle, Cousin, Dear Friend*

HIS BIRTH

*Thursday, July 24, 1952
Devils Lake, North Dakota*

HIS DEATH

*Saturday, December 2, 2023
Grand Forks, North Dakota*

SCRIPTURE SERVICE AND TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

*Gilbertson Funeral Home Chapel
Devils Lake, North Dakota*

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Led by Reverend Mr. Ken Severinson, Deacon*

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

*St. Joseph Catholic Church
Devils Lake, North Dakota*

Thursday, December 7, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

CELEBRANT

Reverend Anthony Cruz

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Lynne Webster, Vocalist
Patty Cote, Vocalist and Organist*

LECTOR

Carla McKelvey

GIFT BEARERS

Bob's Grandchildren

Wyatt, Laine, Dalton, Zachary, Colby, Brianna, Braeden

URN BEARERS

Bob's Daughters

Tina, Tonya and Teri

TODAY

My body no longer tired, no longer sore.

Today is the day I suffer no more.

Do not worry for me, today worrying ends.

I live through love of family and love of friends.

So hold in your heart this memory of mine.

The rain will pass and the sun will shine.

For this life that we live will surely fade,

With problems we've faced and plans that we've made.

And when the gates of Heaven call,

Keep in mind; love survives us all.