

Dennis Wayne Erickson, 83, passed away June 26, 2022 at Essentia Health – St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Brainerd, MN. He was born August 18, 1938, in Swedish Hospital, Minneapolis, MN, to Lawrence and Amy (Long) Erickson. He grew up on a farm in Cambridge, MN, and Wheatland, ND.

Dennis graduated from Wheatland High School in 1956 and then graduated from UND with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He worked for JC Penney, Shell Oil Company, and for many years with Coast to Coast, and Tru Value as District Manager. He was a longtime member of the Baxter Lions Club. Dennis drove school bus for Reichert Bus Company and drove Motor Coach buses after he retired.

While living in Alexandria, MN, he met Sandra (Olson) McDonald and they were married in October of 1972. Dennis loved her two sons, Randy and Mark McDonald, as his own. They lived for a time in Montevideo, MN, and moved to Baxter in 1978.

Dennis and his cousin Norman Erickson were very adventurous while growing up. This led to Dennis getting a pilot license and his own plane. Many laughs were shared while the guys were telling stories of their antics.

Dennis was available to use his mechanical skills to assist many family members and friends. There were many folks he enjoyed visiting with over coffee and pie.

Dennis is survived by wife Sandra (Baxter, MN), son Randy McDonald (Baxter, MN), granddaughters Ashley McDonald (Austin) (Merrifield, MN), Lexie McDonald (Jeremy) (Baxter, MN), and 3 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Marian Kays (Emerado, ND), Cathy (Tim) Lee (Florence, AZ), and Corinne (Don) Nustad (Moorhead, MN), sister-in-law Glenice Vipond (Glenwood, MN), brothers-in-law Charles (Mary) Olson (Alexandria), and David Olson (Alexandria), and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Uli and Jerry Stirewalt (Brainerd), and Soma Rivera (Richard) (Fargo, ND) will also miss Dennis’ wit and guidance. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Mark McDonald, brothers-in-law Edward Kays, James Olson, and Robert Vipond.

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sun on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awake in morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there. I did not die.

In Memory of

**Dennis Wayne
Erickson**

August 18, 1938



June 26, 2022

Celebration Of Life

Kinkead Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota
Thursday, June 30, 2022
11:00 AM

Officiant

Pastor Ginger Beck

Casket Bearers

Ryan Vipond	Jeremy Savaloja
Austin Morley	Jeff Jeske
Skylor Lee	Matt Lee

Honorary Casket Bearers

Dennis’ Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Interment

Kinkead Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota