

Neil Stuart Ranum was born on April 18, 1945 at Trinity Hospital in Minot, North Dakota to Emil Gerald and Esther (Shobe) Ranum. The family lived in Van Hook, ND until Neil was 6. They then moved to New Town, ND where Neil attended grade school and high school.

Neil spent his first year of college at UND and his final years at Minot State University, graduating with a degree in Mathematics. The next 3 years were spent teaching at New Rockford, ND. In the fall of 1971, the family moved to Osakis, MN where he spent the next 32 years teaching math and spent many years coaching football, basketball, and track. He also attended graduate summer school at Central Michigan and Syracuse University in New York.

Neil enjoyed participating in and watching sports. His favorite recent memories were a hole-in-one on Osakis Golf Course #7 and shooting his age in AZ on his 77th birthday last spring. His greatest talent was to make a connection with every new person, and would keep questioning you until he made that, whether it was a ND sibling you knew, a relative you had in Osakis, or even a 10th cousin from the east coast. He would stop to talk to you at a restaurant if you were wearing a Gopher hat or NDSU apparel. He could name the school colors and nickname of most every high school in North Dakota and Minnesota, too.

When writing his own obituary, he left out his volunteer work - he was a quiet servant and did not want attention for those things. On the day before his first seizure, he was recognized as a Douglas County Outstanding Senior for his Meals on Wheels volunteer work.

Neil is survived by wife Joanne of 56 yrs., daughters Julie (John) Owens of Coon Rapids, MN, Jennifer (Phil) Konsor of Little Falls, MN, granddaughters and great grandson - Megan (Dr. Michael) Mullen, Dr. Emily Owens, Erin Hilgers, Elizabeth Owens, and great grandson Graham Mullen. He is also survived by 7 of his 8 siblings: Keith (OJ), Michael (Sandi), Lynn (Sharon), Gail (Lantz) Bottleson, Nancy (Almit) Berglund, Shelley (Jay) Schilken, and Clarke (Betty). He is also survived by Joanne's siblings Mike (Charlotte), Loren, and Sherry McGuinness (Bruce) and numerous nieces and nephews. His brother, Donald (Cecilia), sister-in-law Carol (Michael) Ranum, sister-in-law Marion (Mike) Weihemuller, Joanne's parents, Glen and Frances Weihemuller, and his parents, Gerald and Esther Ranum preceded him in death. Neil was diagnosed with Glioblastoma after suffering seizures in late August, 2022 and died at his Apache Junction, AZ winter home, surrounded by family, on December 27th, 2022.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Neil S. Ranum

1945 ~ 2022

IN LOVING
Memory

Neil Stuart Ranum

April 18, 1945 † December 27, 2022

Memorial Service

Osakis Lutheran Church

Osakis, Minnesota

Friday, January 13, 2023, 11 AM

Officiant

Pastor Rich Fitzer

Musical Selections By

Phil Konsor

Kimberly VanVooren

Pat Converse

Honorary Urn Bearers

Neil's Grandchildren

Megan Mullen

Dr. Michael Mullen

Erin Hilgers

Dr. Emily Owens

Elizabeth Owens

Inurnment

Gordon Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Gordon Township, Minnesota

God hath not promised
skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways
all our lives through;
God hath not promised
sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
peace without pain.
But God hath promised
strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
undying love...