

Vernon ‘Vern’ Gene Strehlow was born on the farm in New York Mills, Minnesota on April 25, 1934. The oldest of 5 children, Vern attended a one room school house, about which he enjoyed telling his children and grandchildren of the 2 mile “all up hill, each way” daily walk to and from school. Following high school graduation Vern served in the United States Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Vern married the love of his life Marlene (Wallace) on August 8, 1959. Jokingly, Marlene would say she married him because he looked like a cross between Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash, but in reality they spent over 60 years together as devoted partners tackling life’s ups and downs with humility, humor and grace.

Vern worked as a roofer, carpenter and in the mines on the Iron Range in his early years. He was a jack of all trades and took pride in his handiwork. He was sought out by many a friend, family and neighbor for his building expertise and masterful workmanship. If something needed to be fixed, built, mowed or plowed, Vern was up to the task. Vern owned his own company, Bayview Builders of Fridley, and was responsible for the construction of hundreds of multifamily and single family residential units in and around the Twin Cities metro area.

After residing in Fridley, MN during his ‘working’ years, Vern and Marlene ‘retired’ and built homes in Alexandria, MN near Lobster Lake and then Lake Burgan, where Vern enjoyed tinkering in his garage/shop, tending to their lawn and garden and looking after the area’s birds and wildlife.

Vern was a proud 50 year member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters’ Union. He was active in the American Legion and the Minnesota Red Bull Historic Military Vehicle Association. Upon retirement, Vern took up the hobby of restoring antique military vehicles and enjoyed sharing this passion with his grandchildren, attending numerous antique car shows, parades and military vehicle caravans.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene; daughters: Debra Strehlow (Mitch Rotenberg), Rose Thompson (Troy), Son, Vern; grandchildren: Olivia Rotenberg & Ross Otto; siblings: Floyd (Dorothy), James (Barb), Mary Lou, Linda Cline (Larry).

## **Footprints In The Sand**

*One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me." The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During the times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

*In Loving Memory of*

## **Vernon "Vern" Strehlow**

April 25, 1934



April 12, 2019



### **Memorial Service**

Anderson Funeral Home  
Alexandria, Minnesota  
Saturday, May 4, 2019  
11:00 AM

### **Officiating**

Rev. John Martinson

### **Military Honors By**

American Legion Post #87  
VFW Post #936  
VVA Post 235

Marine Corps League 1409

Minnesota National Honor Guard

### **Burial**

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery  
Little Falls, Minnesota

### **Arrangements**

Anderson Funeral Home  
Alexandria, Minnesota