

Robert "Mush" Wilke, 77 ✓

Feb. 23, 1935 - Sept. 18, 2012

PANAMA — Robert Elmer Wilke was born on February 23, 1935 to William and Magdalena (Sonntag) Wilke in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School, graduating with the Class of 1954.

Robert remained a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church until his marriage on June 6, 1959 to Monica Kathryn Schulte, when they became members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Robert and Monica were the parents of five children: Dean, Connie, Curt, Deanna, and Scott. He was a life-long crop and livestock farmer in the Panama area. He really liked to cook and share food with others. He was always buying food for family members and many times would deliver it himself. He was an avid sports fan and attended many high school and college sporting events in the area. In later years, Bob enjoyed reading the newspaper cover to cover. He died on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 having attained the age of seventy-seven years, six months, and twenty-six days.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents and brothers and sisters: Elroy, Sylvan, Doret, Virgil, Don, Norb, Marjorie, Joseph, Kenny, Raymond, twin brother Billy, Stella, and William. He is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Monica Wilke of Panama; children: Dean Wilke and his wife Laurie of Panama, Connie Wilke of Neola, Curt Wilke of Earling, Deanna and her husband Dan Taylor of Runnells, and Scott Wilke and his wife Susan of Firestone, CO; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister Betty Finken of Earling, brother Gary Wilke and his wife Mary Ella of Portsmouth; other family members and friends.

Rev. John Dorton celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Serving as casket bearers were Dan Wilke, Greg Wilke, Dalen Wilke, Kasey Bradley, Dakota Taylor, Alex Wilke, and Jax Wilke. The Panama American Legion Post No. 601 performed military rites at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama.



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