



Alex James Schaffer

March 30, 1934 - April 5, 2016

Alex James Schaffer, 82, of Alexandria, Minnesota died April 5, 2016 from cancer.

Alex was born March 30, 1934 in Fort Rice, North Dakota to Paul Schaffer and Rose Kary Schaffer, the first of 9 children. He graduated from high school in Napoleon, North Dakota, just down the road from Lawrence Welk's hometown. Wedding dances were a main form of entertainment, and he retained a life-long joy in dancing, especially the North Dakota hop polka.

Alex served in the army from 1954-1956 and was selected for electronics school, which changed his life. He went on to work at Northwestern Bell for 34 years, first as a lineman and later in management. He had a second successful career with RCC/Cellular 2000, building the cellular network in northern Minnesota. After retirement, he began wintering in Arizona where he enjoyed golfing and socializing with a wide group of friends at Sundance and Fairways resorts in Casa Grande. Other interests include hunting, bird-watching, music, and food!

In 1956, Alex met Mary Ellen McGuire at his uncle George's bowling alley in Little Falls, Minnesota. They married and raised 5 kids. He was heartbroken at her untimely passing from cancer in 2005. In 2010 he married Esther Ropert, whom he met and fell in love with in Casa Grande.

Survived by wife Esther; children: Karen Schaffer (Michael Ward), Stephanie (Greg) Cary, Charles (Mona) Schaffer, Nancy Aagesen (Dean Ellingboe), Daryl (Janis) Schaffer; step-children: George, Michael, & Matthew (Sarah) Ropert, Esther Halloran; grandchildren: Molly Cary, Kathleen & Alicia Schaffer, Nicole (Lehi) Smith, Christopher Aagesen; step-grandchildren: Amanda (Christopher) Wensch, Corinne (Andrew) Cooper, Megan Halloran, Cole & Ellison Ropert, Jesse, Tyler (Katie), & Jonathan Ellingboe; seven siblings; numerous step-great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews

Predeceased by wife Mary Ellen and brother Gerald

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Hospice of the Valley- Lund Home, www.hov.org 1982 E. Woodside Ct, Gilbert, AZ 85297. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm with a prayer service at 6:00 pm at the Anderson Funeral Home and visitation one hour prior to the service at church on Wednesday. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Prayer Service

APR 12. 6:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Visitation

APR 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Tribute Wall



“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Alex James Schaffer



Anderson Funeral Home - April 08, 2016 at 11:21 AM

KB

“ I remember Alex as being a most gentle man. He was such a joy to be around. It has been so many years since he came out to the Kahl Ranch, but I remember it as though it was yesterday. We are sorry for Alex' passing, but so happy the obituary was in the Bismarck Tribune. I was able to share it with my brothers and sisters. We would love to stay in touch. My address is 1028 N. 1st St. Bismarck, ND 58501. My phone number is 701-315-0748. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. God bless you richly.
Karen (Kahl) Boelter

Karen Boeltler - April 20, 2016 at 11:00 AM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alex James Schaffer.



April 11, 2016 at 09:21 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Alex James Schaffer.*



April 11, 2016 at 04:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alex James Schaffer.*



April 10, 2016 at 03:00 PM



“ *YOUR NEIGHBORS purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alex James Schaffer.*



YOUR NEIGHBORS - April 09, 2016 at 11:54 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alex James Schaffer.*



April 08, 2016 at 11:39 AM

TA

“ I am so sorry Schaffer family on the passing of your father. I never met Alex but graduated with son, Daryl. I was so surprised to read in the EchoPress that your father was living in Alexandria, MN as that is where I now reside.

Daryl and family, may you remember sweet memories as you celebrate your dad's life.

Take care and God bless.

Tracey Pearson Anderson

Tracey Pearson Anderson - April 08, 2016 at 09:46 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alex James Schaffer.



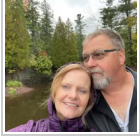
April 07, 2016 at 05:13 PM

CC

“ Coast Guard Personnel Service Center purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Alex James Schaffer.



Coast Guard Personnel Service Center - April 07, 2016 at 11:36 AM



“ *My thoughts are with your family at this difficult time. I worked with Alex and Mary Ellen at RCC; they truly were an inspiration to all that they met. "My Beautiful Bride" will be eternally associated with Alex.*



Phyllis Johnson

Phyllis Johnson - April 07, 2016 at 09:10 AM

SC

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Stephanie Cary - April 07, 2016 at 09:02 AM

LS

“ *We have lost a wonderful brother and Heaven has gained a beautiful soul. You lived life to the fullest and brought so much joy to everyone. We will miss your smile, your stories, your laughter, but most of all, your presence.*

Lynda - sister - April 06, 2016 at 09:35 PM

YL

“ *Your friends at Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Alex James Schaffer.*



Your friends at Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP - April 06, 2016 at 09:01 AM