



Roger A. Casselman

September 3, 1943 - March 29, 2025

NORFOLK – Funeral service for Roger A. Casselman, 81 of Norfolk, will be held at 10:30 AM Thursday, April 3, 2025 at Stonacek Funeral Chapel, Norfolk. Officiating the service will be Pastor Tim DeFor. Military rites will be provided by the American Legion Post 16, V.F.W. Post 1644 of Norfolk, Nebraska American Legion Riders, and the United States Air Force Honor Guard. Burial will take place at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Norfolk, Visitation will be held from 4:00 - 7:00 PM Wednesday, also at Stonacek Funeral Chapel, Norfolk. Roger passed away on March 29, 2025, at his residence in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Roger Allan Casselman was born on September 3, 1943, in Plainview, Nebraska to Everett and Dorothy (Jensen) Casselman. Roger met his father only once, as an infant. Everett Casselman was killed in action in 1944 when his plane was shot down over the North Sea while serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

In 1946, Roger's mother, Dorothy, married Harry Paulsen, and the family moved to a farmhouse between Battle Creek and Pierce. There, Roger and his younger half-brother, Keith Paulsen, grew up helping Harry on the family farm. On the farm, Roger enjoyed hunting, fishing, working with animals, and spending time outdoors.

Roger graduated from Battle Creek High School in 1962 and joined the Air Force in 1964 during the height of the Vietnam War. He served as an Airman Basic/Air Policeman from February 1, 1964, to November 2, 1966.

After his time in the service, Roger began working at the Norfolk Daily News, where he operated and maintained the printing presses and other machinery. He played a key role in implementing and troubleshooting each generation of computers used to create the daily publication. Roger worked at the Daily News for 40 years before retiring in 2007.

While working at the Daily News, Roger met the love of his life, Karen (Benish) Efta. They were married November 15, 1980, in Norfolk, with Karen's son from her first marriage, John Efta, serving as their ring bearer. Roger and Karen welcomed their first daughter, Rachel, in 1985, followed by their youngest daughter, Sarah, in 1986.

Roger enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren fishing in his boat and teaching them to appreciate the outdoors. Some of the family's favorite memories include Roger giving his children and grandchildren rides around the backyard in the little red wagon he'd pull behind his John Deere riding mower. He was also an avid bowler, having bowled multiple perfect games during his league years.

Roger instilled a love and respect for animals in his children and grandchildren, especially for dogs. Throughout his life, he adopted many dogs, loving each one of them almost as much as they loved him. His current dogs, Bernie and Rexie, miss him deeply. Rexie was never far from Roger's lap in his favorite armchair and is lost without him.

Roger was incredibly proud of his military service, which led him to be active in many roles in the Norfolk VFW Post 1644 throughout his life. He served

multiple terms as Commander of the VFW, organizing the Color Guard to perform military rites at the funerals of other veterans and ensuring they received the respect and honor they deserved for their service.

Even after stepping down as Commander, Roger continued to organize the Color Guard for military funerals until his health no longer allowed him to do so. At the time of his passing, he served as Sergeant at Arms for the Norfolk VFW. Roger also enjoyed calling numbers for the weekly Thursday night split-the-pot event and assisting with Sunday morning breakfasts at the VFW.

Roger is survived by his wife, Karen, of 44 years; children John (Jen) Efta of Hadar, Rachel Casselman of Norfolk, and Sarah (Tim) Nelson of Norfolk; five grandchildren, Christopher Efta, Nickolas Efta, Leigha Nelson, Jordan Nelson, and Jaden Nelson; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Roger was preceded in death by his father, Everett Casselman; mother, Dorothy Paulsen; stepfather, Harry Paulsen; half-brother, Keith Paulsen; parents-in-law, Roy and Freida Benish; sister-in-law, Carol Keating; multiple friends; and many dogs who his family hopes were waiting to greet him.

In true Roger fashion, he faced his brief battle with cancer with strength and pride. He passed away on March 29, 2025, which was National Vietnam War Veterans Day. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the VFW Post 1644 Color Guard to support their ongoing work of honoring fellow veterans with military rites.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery - Norfolk

1500 Maple Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7676
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7676
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

KW

“ Karen and family: I'm unable to attend today's funeral for Roger, but I wanted you to know that Roger was someone that I counted as a friend and relied on him as an invaluable colleague at the Daily News for so many years. I can't begin to tally the many questions I posed to him over the years that were computer and system related. He always came through. He will be missed by many. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Kent Warneke

Kent Warneke - April 03, 2025 at 10:26 AM

RP

“ Columbus Honor Guard Team/NEANG TEAM- We extend our deepest condolences to the entire extended family and friends of Roger. We had the greatest pleasures of serving with him when we would conduct Military rites to other service members. We here at the Columbus Honor Guard Team will miss him and keep him in our thoughts. May he rest in peace and may his legacy continue with the V.F.W, American Legion, the Norfolk Community and fellow Veterans. The Shoe's he leaves behind will be big to fill but we will remember him.

Rudiz Pineda - April 02, 2025 at 09:13 PM

BW

“ *RIP Roger Casselman...
I sincerely SALUTE YOU as a most dedicated VETERAN!
You have been a PILLAR at our Norfolk VFW Club and a icon
citizen of Norfolk.
I first met you when Jerry Huse commissioned my small upholstery
business to complete a number of projects at the Norfolk Daily
News...you were always friendly and helpful.
Lois and I will truly miss you as we continue to patronize and
support the VFW!
Sincere condolences to Karen, family and your HUGE VOLUME of
friends!
May God welcome you with open arms, Roger Casselman!!*

Bill & Lois Widhalm - April 01, 2025 at 11:44 PM

BS

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire
extended family!*



Brian Schlote - April 01, 2025 at 04:43 PM

DD

“ Karen & family - Betty and I were so sorry to hear of Roger's passing. We appreciate his time in the service as well as his many years of devoted service to the local VFW Post and Club. We enjoyed our visits with him when we would see him in the club as well as helping to celebrate his 80th birthday.. When we lived at 14th & Clark, every autumn, I would give him a hard time that he must have a huge electric fan to blow all his big leaves down Clark St to our yard. I also still remember in 1989 when I lived on Elm Street and was getting out of a lounge chair in the yard with a full length brace on my broken leg and he stopped to see if I needed help., We will miss seeing him. All you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Don & Betty Dammast - March 31, 2025 at 04:37 PM

LF

“ Lyle & Wilma Benish Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger A. Casselman.

Lyle & Wilma Benish Family - March 31, 2025 at 04:06 PM

LF

“ Lyle & Wilma Benish Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Roger A. Casselman.



Lyle & Wilma Benish Family - March 31, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Roger A. Casselman.

March 31, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Roger A. Casselman.



March 31, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



John Efta - March 29, 2025 at 08:29 AM