



## Roland L. Voecks

July 6, 1929 - January 18, 2019

PIERCE -- Memorial service for Roland L. Voecks, 89, of Pierce will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierce with Father Marc Lim officiating. Inurnment will be held at the parish cemetery, rural Pierce. Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, also at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church with a Rosary service beginning at 7:00 p.m, following the visitation. Military rites will be conducted by the Tomek-Otto Post 72 American Legion of Pierce and the United States Navy Honors Guard. Roland died Friday, January 18, 2019 at the Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk.

Stonacek Memorial Chapel in Pierce is in charge of the arrangements. Born July 6, 1929, in Pierce, Roland Leroy Voecks was the son of Gilbert and Mary (Havel) Voecks. He graduated from Pierce High School in 1947. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving from Jan. 6, 1951, until Nov. 4, 1954. He was stationed in Guantanamo Bay, also known as "Gitmo" in Cuba, and was on the destroyer known as U.S.S. Dortch. He was stationed at the U.S. Naval Base in Boston, Mass., for two years and took care of leave papers. He married Kathryn Abler on Oct. 6, 1953, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierce. They lived in Lincoln, and Roland worked for the post office for a short time. To this union, they had a girl and two boys. He later became acquainted with a restaurant franchise business "Kings Food Host" that took him and his family from Lincoln to Boulder, Colo., to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Farmington, N.M.

Roland and Kathryn established their own restaurant once in Farmington and named it “Katie’s Kitchen” after his spouse, which they owned and operated for 10 years.

Roland and Kathryn later moved to Pierce in 1978, and they established “The Granary” restaurant in Norfolk, which they owned and operated for 25 years. Roland enjoyed golfing in his later years and dressing up as Santa (Kathryn as Mrs. Claus) during the Christmas season, visiting schools in and around Pierce for numerous years. One unique hobby Roland picked while in New Mexico was hot air ballooning; it took the entire family to provide ground support. Roland purchased his own balloon before he even knew how to fly. He then earned his pilot’s license and owned it for 25 years. He enjoyed driving his 1929 Model A in parades and restored a 1925 Model T stake bed truck. Roland was known to have a quick wit and really enjoyed visiting with friends and family. He was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Pierce, American Legion Tomek-Otto Post 72 of Pierce and the Elks Club. Survivors include his spouse, Kathryn Voecks of Pierce; a son, David Voecks of New Mexico; a son, Dan (Pam) Voecks of Midland, Texas; a son-in-law, Dr. Randall Sussex of New Mexico; five grandchildren: Mandi, Erica, Stephanie, Derek and Isabelle; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Rolanda Sussex; a grandson, Garrett Voecks; his parents, Gilbert and Mary; and a brother, Donald “Pink.” Organist for the funeral will be Celine Fehringer.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery - Rural Pierce

Rural Pierce  
Pierce, NE 68767

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Pierce  
118 Willow St.  
Pierce, NE 68767

## Rosary

JAN 22. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Pierce  
118 Willow St.  
Pierce, NE 68767

## Service

JAN 23. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Pierce  
118 Willow St.  
Pierce, NE 68767



# Tribute Wall



“ *Roland L. Voecks*

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October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM

MC

“ I met Roland Voecks when I was 12 years old, in my home town in New Mexico. He was the father of my new friend David, and I still remember the first time I met him. He picked me up to drive me to a "sleep over" at their house, and scared the bejeezus out of me because on the way there he spotted a competing restaurant's soda cup in the road and steered the car into the oncoming lane (no traffic) just to run over the cup. I'd never met friends' parents who didn't act like grown ups but I soon learned that Roland was 40 going on 12. It didn't take long to realize that his wife Katie was the grown-up.

They treated me like part of their family, and eventually I started working for them at their restaurant. It was my first real job, and I learned the value of hard work, and everything about restaurant ownership, from washing dishes to waiting tables, cooking, cleaning, and making the bank deposits. I still cook some of the dishes I learned to make there. Most importantly I learned that I didn't want to own a restaurant. I knew I would never have the energy it took to run one well, like those two.

This past July I saw Roland again after nearly 40 years. Though physically aged, he still had that 12-year-old kid attitude. His humor was undimmed; he still acted as if every female deserved a flirty compliment, and everyone deserved respect for their life accomplishments. He spoke admiringly of his fellow residents at the Veterans' Home, knowing the life history of many of them. His interest in his fellow man and the world around him never diminished. He seemed to have enough curiosity and energy for two lifetimes.

If you've never heard a song by Guy Clark called *THE CAPE*, look for it. To me it seems like he wrote it about Roland. The lyrics go like this:

*Eight years old with a flour sack cape  
Tied all around his neck.*

*He climbed up on the garage  
He's figuring what the heck.  
Screwed his courage up so tight  
That the whole thing come unwound.  
He got a running start and bless his heart  
He's headed for the ground.*

*Well, he's one of those who knows that life is just a leap of faith.  
Spread your arms and hold your breath and always trust your cape.*

*Now, he's all grown up with a flour sack cape  
Tied all around his dreams.  
And he's full of piss and vinegar  
And he's busting at the seams.  
Well, he licked his finger and he checked the wind.  
It's going to be do or die.  
And he wasn't scared of nothing, boys.  
He was pretty sure he could fly.*

*Well, he's one of those who knows that life is just a leap of faith.  
Spread your arms and hold your breath and always trust your cape.*

*Now, he's old and gray with a flour sack cape  
Tied all around his head.  
And he's still jumping off garages, and will be 'till he's dead.  
All these years the people said he was acting like a kid.  
He did not know he could not fly. And so he did.*

*"Fair winds and following seas, sailor." You made your mark.*

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**M. Cordova** - January 21, 2019 at 08:41 PM

JS

*That's Rol. In a nutshell. Beautifully written.*

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**Jim Summers** - December 12, 2022 at 12:04 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Roland L. Voecks.*



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January 21, 2019 at 07:08 PM



“ *Shortly after the Granary opened I was hired as an evening cook after school. Roland, Katie and their entire family treated everyone like their own family. One day during the summer break I was scheduled to work in the morning. As I arrived Rol threw me the keys to their Mercedes and said I needed to go to Omaha to pick up a new replacement grinding head for the meat grinder. I was 17 years old. After that summer Rol thought that I was mature enough to have a key and lock the place up after my shift. A couple of years later I was scheduled to work a split shift. During the lunch hour, working right beside Rol, Rol asked me if I wanted to attend the NHS Playoff football game that night. I replied I had to work and he said he had already taken care of that and then told me to go home and change clothes and come right back. When I returned we took off for Omaha to watch his nephew play in the NHS football game. The next summer they let me and my family use their cabin they had in Bayfield, Colorado for an entire week, at no charge. They attended both my graduation and wedding. Rol, Katie and their entire family have had a huge impact in my life as mentors and will always have a special place in my heart.*



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**Dennis Powell** - January 20, 2019 at 08:53 PM

SF

“ *Thinking a lot about you and all the times we had at the Granery*  
*Suzanne Falk*

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**Suzanne Falk** - January 20, 2019 at 01:58 PM

DV

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Dan Voecks** - January 20, 2019 at 11:29 AM

DV

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Dan Voecks** - January 20, 2019 at 11:24 AM