



Thomas E. Horobik

April 8, 1947 - June 7, 2016

BASSETT -- Memorial services for Thomas E. Horobik, 69, of Bassett will be held at a later date. He passed away Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at the Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk is in charge of the arrangements.

Thomas was born April 8, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois to Edward and Ella Dorothea Mae (Milso) Horobik. Thomas graduated from Palatine High School in Palatine, IL. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Science Education from the University of Montana.

Tom married Bonnie A. Whitmire on June 15, 1968. During their nearly 48 years of marriage, Tom and Bonnie lived in Great Falls and Missoula, Montana; Ashland, Oregon; and Benkelman, Nebraska before retiring to their current home in Bassett, Nebraska. In addition to the many loved ones he leaves behind, Tom touched a great number of lives through 24 years as a beloved science teacher and coach. He also served as the President of the Montana Wilderness Association, was a volunteer EMT, and put Benkelman on the weather map as their National Weather Service Co-Op Observer for over two decades. Tom could often be found traveling the back roads, hiking, wildlife watching, and exploring. He shared his love of the natural world and rural areas through columns in numerous newspapers as well as a book, *The Never-Ending Journey*. While he passed his loves of nature, reading, and traveling on to his family members, Tom's presence will be greatly missed as they continue on their individual journeys

Survivors include wife Bonnie Horobik of Bassett, children Randal (Kate) Horobik of Honolulu, Hawaii, Craig Horobik of Omaha, Valerie Horobik of Cincinnati, Ohio, Heather Horobik of Vernal, Utah, Brian Horobik of Denver, Colorado, seven grandchildren, mother Ella Horobik of Kyle, TX, two sisters Sherry (Ed) Popiolek of Kyle, TX, Debbie Seames of Gig Harbor, Washington, and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his father Edward and one sister Terry Norman.

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas E. Horobik*

October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories*



Heather Horobik - June 20, 2016 at 09:09 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories*



Valerie Horobik - June 14, 2016 at 09:08 AM

VH

“ 6 files added to the album Memories



Valerie Horobik - June 13, 2016 at 09:58 PM

HW

“ I want to send you all my deepest sympathy at the loss of your Dad/Husband. I remember Tom throughout my childhood and close friendship with Valerie, as a welcoming father each time I was in your home. He was always kind and gentle, encouraging, and as I got older, fascinating to have a conversation with because of his extensive knowledge and love of nature. I remember his (and Bonnie's) acquiescence to Valerie's request to adopt pet after pet, and I think all the while he really enjoyed seeing his love of nature being passed to his daughter.

I also must share that he was the very first person to encourage me to run, something that continues to be a central part of my life today. When I was in jr. high, he invited me to run in the jr. high race of the McCook cross country meet. I expressed fear of losing a spot on the volleyball team, a sport I was never any good at anyway, and he gently encouraged me to conquer my fear of the coach and give it a try. That first race was the beginning of years of high school and college cross country, and it continues today as I love to explore new trails and be out in nature on a running path.

His never-ending-journey articles and the accounts given by Valerie to me were fascinating, giving me a glimpse into the fun that could be had in a car on the back roads of Nebraska and beyond. And when watching the nightly news on TV, I was always proud to see Benkelman's weather report on the map, knowing exactly who had called it in. Tom was a special person, husband, and father, and I am so privileged to know him and remember him with great fondness.

All my thoughts and prayers go out to you, Bonnie, Valerie, Heather, Randall, Craig, and Brian.

Heather Walker - June 13, 2016 at 03:26 PM

VH

“ 6 files added to the album Memories



Valerie Horobik - June 13, 2016 at 02:05 PM