

OBITUARY

George Gene Rothwell



George Gene Rothwell, known by family in Nebraska as "Gene" and by family /friends in Colorado as "George" passed away on May 16, 2015. He was born on May 10, 1936 to George and Gladys Rothwell in Hyannis, NE and grew up on a cattle ranch in his beloved "sand hills".

George graduated from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1961 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He could "fix" almost anything! In 1961, he was employed at the NE Dept. of Roads working on the Interstate Highway program in '61-'62, then with Martin Marietta in Denver on The Titan I and II programs. In January 1964, George married Carolyn Ann Budde and they were married for 35 years, until her death in October 1999.

In 1966, he joined Frontier Airlines developing with IBM the world's first major online passenger reservation system. Then taking a new direction, he moved to Durango, CO. for two years owning a gourmet cheese shop. In 1974 he moved to Los Angeles with Continental Airlines managing software development on the reservation system called SHARES hosting 28 airlines with Continental being the largest. George retired May 16, 1996.

In 2001, George attended a Bible Study at First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs & met Jane Womeldorf. From the beginning, it was THE perfect love story. They were married October 5, 2001 starting the most wonderful years of their lives. George loved traveling the world with Jane, being a part of family milestones and was a devoted grandfather to his "step-grandchildren." George was kind, generous, a gentleman and saw the best in everyone and everything he encountered. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, The Model A Club, The Computer Club and looked forward to his annual reunion along with spouses in his 3300 Club, (which was the address of his college apartment shared by his college roommates.) Always making time for others, he volunteered and sat on The Board of The Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation.

George liked cars, trains & trolleys, jazz music, a good cup of coffee and ice cream any time of day! He enjoyed playing bridge, walks with his wife & entertaining their abundant friends. Guided by his strong faith in God, he had pure integrity, warmth and friendliness unsurpassed by most. He held a deep love and commitment for his wife and family.

In March of 2015 after vacationing with family in Florida, both George and Jane became seriously ill at the same time and entered the hospital for near two months with much of that time having side by side rooms.

George was preceeded in death by his parents George and Gladys Rothwell, brothers: Robert, Billy, Max Rothwell and sister Martha Lou Warday, sister-in-law Lorine (Max), brother-in-law Howard Curtiss (Phyllis), brother-in-law Louis Knoflicek (Phyllis), three nephews and one great nephew. He is survived by wife of 14 years Jane Rothwell, sister Phyllis Knoflicek of Alliance, NE., sister-in law Shirley Rothwell (Billy) of Arthur, NE., Ann Rothwell (Robert) of Lincoln, NE. and many nephews, nieces and cousins. George is also survived by step-daughter Julie Lippert (Dr. William "Lary") of CO. Springs, CO., step-son John Martin (Connie) of Sun Prairie, WI., step-grandchildren: Dr. Ben Lippert (Christina) of Denver, CO., Alexander Lippert (Brittany Daugherty) of CO. Springs, CO., Millicent Lippert of CO. Springs, CO., Krista Martin of Marshall, WI., and many brother and sister-in laws, nephews & nieces in Tucson, AZ. and Madison, WI.

George Gene Rothwell was a very special man, husband, "father," "grandfather" and friend. He will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

Memorial service to be held at First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Donations may be made in his memory to First Prebyterian Church or the Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation.