



## Duaine "Buck" L. Roper

September 3, 1933 - July 13, 2016

Memorial services for Duaine will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Fairmont Community Church with Pastor Brad Barrows officiating.

There will be no visitation - cremation.

Inurnment of Ashes will follow the Memorial Service in the Fairmont Public Cemetery.

Memorials are to be directed to Lions Club International - Leader Dogs For The Blind.

Duaine Lee Roper was born to Curtis Roper and Alta (Avery) Curtis on September 3, 1933, at Fairmont, Nebraska, and passed away on July 13, 2016, at Fairview Manor in Fairmont, Nebraska, at the age of 82 years, 10 months, and 10 days. He was one of 3 children in the family.

Duaine, also known as Buck, grew up on the Roper farm outside of Fairmont, and graduated from Fairmont High School. He attended Nebraska Wesleyan briefly before teaching at the country school near the farm in Fairmont, and then returned to Lincoln and Wesleyan, where he met Geraldine Gladys Swanson.

Buck attended Devry Trade School in Chicago Illinois, studying technical drawing, and it was during this time that he and Geraldine (Gerry) were married, in 1957. The young couple moved to Denver, Colorado, where Buck worked for the Lockheed Martin Company. As a part of his employment with Lockheed, he had a brief assignment in California in order to work on the Titan Missile Project. Returning to Denver, Buck took a position with the Jewel T Company. They purchased a house on Jason Street, in Englewood, and adopted son Rob in 1961. Three years later they adopted daughter Julie, and returned to Fairmont in 1964, moving into his Grandmother Avery's house. It was then that Buck found his true calling...that of a Beekeeper. He maintained the Roper Honey Company, he and Gerry sharing Lake Livingston, Texas and Fairmont, Nebraska as their residences. After retirement, they claimed Fairmont and Mission, Texas as their home

bases.

Buck was a member of the Fairmont Lions Club, the Fairmont Masonic Lodge, Grace Church and Fairmont Community Church. He volunteered as Cub Master for Fairmont's Boy Scouts, and chaperoned many youth fellowship outings.

He had a passion for genealogy, tracing the Roper and Avery lineages through papers and cemeteries. He loved evening rides in the country, checking his bees and ending with a charburger at Tony's. He shared his love of water-skiing with his family and their friends, and delighted in teaching the next generation. He loved to hit the dance floor, play table tennis, and participate in the Melody Theatre, a performance group at Bentsen Grove Resort in Mission Texas. Mostly, he embraced his wanderlust spirit, and travelled. He first drove a camper, then pulled a fifth wheel, visiting nearly all 50 states. Buck loved meeting fellow campers and winter Texans, and he and Gerry grew a large network of travelling friends. He visited Mexico, Canada, Ireland, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. He returned to his early drawing roots, this time picking up oils and watercolors.

Buck's greatest passions were his family and friends. He was sure to make coffee time at the Tower Café, hosted BooRay gatherings at the Honey House, and enjoyed drinking a beer and tossing stories and trivia. He loved round robin Ping-Pong with the Ropers, dyeing Easter eggs with his grandchildren, and taking his family into Progresso, Mexico for entertainment.

Buck was preceded in death by his parents, Curtis and Alta Roper, his daughter-in-law, Ann Hannika Roper, and his great granddaughter, Kaley Kozisek.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry; son, Rob; daughter, Julie; brothers, Marvin and Delvin; 6 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

# Cemetery

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## **Fairmont Public Cemetery**

Fairmont, NE,

# Comments

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“ Our sincere condolences to the families of Buck Roper. I with my husband Luke, met Buck and Gerry a year ago, Sept. 2015, as we traveled from researching family history in Gravity Iowa. We stopped in Fairview and with the help of Wanda, located Buck. Imagine, the immediate love that was present as I shared the facts that I am a relative of Buck's Mother, Mary Alta Avery Roper, and grandmother, Carrie Avery, extending to Sidney W. Avery. My great grandmother was an Avery, we are part of Buck's family. Pictures have been shared, phone calls, family records, and I treasure each memory that Buck had given and mailed to me. I will leave you with my e-mail address in case someone would like to contact me. I am sorry to have seen this notice, and not have been able to visit Buck and Gerry again, as I have had to fly to Seattle for my Mother, back and forth since Christmas. Our love and prayers go to this special Roper family, Karen Rhodes Heesacker/Denver, Colorado.  
karenheesacker@aol.com



**Karen Heesacker** - August 22, 2016 at 06:28 PM

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“ To the Roper family, please accept my condolence. Imagine Duaine living "forever" right here on earth. That is what God promises at Isaiah chapter twenty-six verse nineteen and we know God does not lie. Numbers chapter twenty-three verse nineteen.

**Thelma Johnson** - July 26, 2016 at 07:15 AM

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“ It was with sadness we heard of Buck's passing. We remember fondly our visits with Buck and Gerry on "D" Street at Bentsen Grove. Our sincere condolences are with the entire family. Thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.  
Most sincerely,  
Ken & Dottie Holsapple

**Ken & Dottie Holsapple** - July 18, 2016 at 03:41 PM

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“ James &. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Duaine "Buck" L. Roper.



James &. - July 17, 2016 at 10:19 PM

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“ Buck was a good friend, willing to do anything for you. He always had a funny story to tell, you feel welcome when you went to their home. We always enjoyed our get-to-gathers with them. He will be missed but he is in a much better place. Our love to Gerry and the family. James and Shirley Wheiles

James & Shirley Wheiles - July 17, 2016 at 08:57 PM

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“ We were lucky enough to get to know Buck & Gerry in Mission, TX. Thanks for all the wonderful memories we will cherish them always. Rest in peace dear friend.  
Love  
Nancy & Wayne Burke

Nancy & Wayne Burke - July 17, 2016 at 07:43 PM

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“ We have lost a great friend. Buck and Gerry were the first people we met at BGR. We have many special memories we will always hold dear in our heart of " Buck". Rest in peace my friend.

Tom and Sandy Hupf - July 16, 2016 at 08:52 PM

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“ Rob, I am sorry for your loss.

Dawn Clover - July 16, 2016 at 04:09 PM

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“ 17 files added to the album Funeral Arrangments



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - July 16, 2016 at 02:15 PM

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“ Oh what fun we had in the past years. Buck & Jerry such special people to us. Think of you so often in our travels remembering all of our Good Times. Rest in peace our friend until we meet again. Thoughts and prayers, Les and Sharon Nau

Les and Sharon Nau - July 15, 2016 at 05:46 PM

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“ So sorry to hear this sad news. Buck was such a great guy and a definitely a face I remember when I think of "home". Always had a smile and kind word He will be missed. Prayers for comfort to all.  
Shelley Moul Bryson

Shelley Bryson - July 15, 2016 at 10:21 AM

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“ Matti purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Duaine L. Roper.



Matti - July 15, 2016 at 02:03 AM

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“ More than you know  
You helped me grow  
In your loving home  
So long ago

I am still able  
To see us at the dinner table  
Together all five  
So full of life

I cherish that year  
I still feel it near  
I feel it inside  
My heart and my mind

Love, Matti



Matti Helelä - July 15, 2016 at 12:51 AM

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“ Buck was a guy who always had a smile and encouraging word for you. Our condolences and prayers are with you. Fun memory: When Nathan (our youngest) was about 3 or 4, I would sometimes take him to the Tower Cafe while the other kids were at Sunday school. He and Buck got into the habit of sharing a bag of M&M's during that time.

Dave Seggerman - July 14, 2016 at 11:25 PM

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“ Linda Lott Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Duaine "Buck" L. Roper



linda lott mitchell - July 14, 2016 at 09:28 PM