



## Ralph L. Gipson

November 22, 1922 - April 3, 2013

Ralph Leo Gipson was born to Forest Roscoe Gipson and Leona May Summerfield Gipson on November 22, 1922, in Huntsville, Missouri, and passed away April 3, 2013, at home in Fairmont, Nebraska, at the age of 90. He was one of six children.

Ralph graduated from high school in Huntsville in 1941. He served our country as a sailor in the United States Navy during World War II, where he was stationed on the USS Richmond. In 1942, he met Cora Louise Holder, of Lincoln, Arkansas, and the couple married in Seattle, Washington on Christmas day 1943. To them, two daughters were born. After the war the family moved to York, Nebraska where Ralph began working for Consumer Public Power (NPPD). The family lived in several communities in the York area including Exeter, Clay Center and Geneva. Following his retirement from NPPD in 1982 Ralph worked several years for University of Nebraska Research Center in Clay Center.

Ralph and Louise moved to Fairmont in 1982. Ralph was very active in his community, he was a member of the Fairmont United Methodist Church, the Geneva VFW, the Fairmont American Legion, and he played an instrumental role in establishing a local chapter of Compassionate Friends. He was also a member of the Lion's Club, served on the Parish Relations Committee in Geneva, and led a local youth group in Exeter. His retirement years were spent traveling with their daughter Linda and son-in-law. They spent many winters in Texas and Arizona. Ralph also enjoyed attending his annual naval

ship reunions. Ralph was a jack of all trades, he could fix anything that needed fixing, but he also enjoyed tinkering and building things. Most of all, Ralph loved spending time with his family. One of his greatest passions was spending summers at Lovewell Lake, where the family had a cabin. He loved to be on the water, and he prided himself in teaching everyone he knew how to water ski. He was very proud of the fact that he could still water ski past his 80th birthday. He never missed out on being there for his grandchildren. There was never a baseball game or a school activity where he wasn't in attendance. In November, Ralph celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends. On Christmas Day he and Louise celebrated 69 years of marriage. Ralph is preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Gerlee Reynolds, a brother, Howard Gipson, and a daughter, Lois Leona Gipson Swails. Survivors include his wife Louise of Fairmont, NE, daughter Linda McQuinney, and husband Richard of Post Falls, ID, grandchildren Desire McNabb and husband Dane of Plaines, MT, Kelly Green and husband Rob of Libby, MT, Darcy Moul and husband Darcy of Grand Island, NE, Daryn Swails and wife Kim of Kearney, NE, and Deidre Voigt and husband Terry of Post Falls, ID. Also left to cherish his memory are 16 great grand children, and 4 great-great grand children.

Memorial services for Ralph will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the Fairmont Community Church in Fairmont, Nebraska. Pastor Karla Sheffy will be officiating the service.

There will be a private family committal of ashes in the Fairmont Public Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

KW

“ Dear Louise,  
Tim and I extend our deepest sympathy.

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**Kathleen and Tim Wilbeck** - April 14, 2013 at 02:57 PM

BB

“ Dearest Linda & Dick- Just read your Dad's obituary. You all did an incredible job summarizing his amazing life. Loved the picture you chose. His beautiful smile was one that always drew you in and made you feel so comfortable around him. Linda I can still see you and I on his motorcycle back in the 60's. He always enjoyed sharing it with us and wanted us to love it as much as he did. What a guy, you were so lucky to have him for your Dad, Linda. Please know that you and your family have been our thoughts and prayers. Give your Mom a big hug from both of us and let her know we have been thinking about her as well. Sending lots of love, Bob & Betty

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**Bob & Betty** - April 06, 2013 at 10:03 PM

SC

“ Our deepest sympathy. Always enjoyed visiting with Ralph. Had many conversations while working on his vehicles.

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**Steve Cantrell** - April 05, 2013 at 12:51 AM

JH

“ Darcy and Family, Thinking of you! We are so sorry for your loss and hope that you and your family have strength thru this weekend. From reading, he sounded like a wonderful man! Prayers, Chad, Jamie, Brayden and Brock Hurley

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**Jamie Hurley** - April 04, 2013 at 05:17 PM

MM

“ Louise: We opened our TCF meeting last night by sharing our memories of Ralph. Pat and I are so fortunate to have met Ralph (and you, of course); he didn't say a lot, but his humor and his willingness to be open about his own pain, did so much to help us get through that time when our own sorrow was at its sharpest. Of course you, Louise, are in our thoughts.  
Love, Mark and Pat

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**Mark Metcalf** - April 04, 2013 at 04:25 PM

AH

“ I was so sorry to hear about Ralph's passing. I remember both of you from when I was very little, like grandparents. You were both so giving and kind. Then when Alia came along you showed her love too. I just love you guys and want you to know I'm thinking about you and your family. Hugs and love, Ann

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**Ann Hurst** - April 04, 2013 at 09:04 AM