



Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra

April 11, 1941 - December 28, 2018

Stuart Lee Vavra was born on April 11, 1941, on the family farm north of Milligan, Nebraska, to Edward and Lillian (Kohler) Vavra and passed away on December 28, 2018, at his home at the age of 77 years, 8 months, and 17 days. He was one of three children in the family.

He attended rural school District #6 and graduated from eighth grade. He then attended Milligan High School and graduated in 1958 with a class of seven. Stuart was united in marriage to Janet Ann Garrett, on March 8, 1963, in Geneva, Nebraska. To this union two daughters were born: Jana Marie and Jodene Renae. Together they made their home on the farm northwest of Milligan.

Stuart worked for Lincoln Prestress, Dobson Brothers, Maury Nichols, Fillmore County, and L.J. Webb from working in the oilfields of Wyoming as a roustabout, operating heavy equipment and later building bridges and boxed culverts. He farmed the 80 acres he lived on, but his true passion was fabricating race cars. "Super Stu" started his racing career in 1958 at the age of 17 at Capitol Beach in Lincoln. The first car he ever raced was a 1932 Ford Sedan with an Olds Rocket 88 engine with the #6X. In 1967 he raced and drove a 1936 Plymouth Coupe with the #35 and his last car he ever raced was a 1979 purple Chevy Camaro. He had a very devoted pit crew, sponsors and many fans which made his success possible. During his racing career, he

placed in the top ten in season points every year from 1967-1982. He met many dear friends and racers traveling from racetrack to racetrack. In 1982 after 24 years of capturing the checkered flag and competing at 17 different race tracks throughout Nebraska and Kansas, he decided to hang up his racing helmet. Super Stu was inducted into the Beatrice Speedway Hall of Fame on November 1, 2003, was a long-time member of the Central Nebraska Racing Association, and a member of the Good Old Time Racing Association (GOTRA). After Stu retired from circling the racetracks, he spent his later years helping his twin grandsons work on their race cars and giving them advice in his shop over a beer or two. He drew great pride in watching them compete.

He also enjoyed attending his granddaughter's school events, fishing with them, and giving each of them driving lessons. He was extremely proud of all the grandchildren's' accomplishments.

After the passing of Janet, he reconnected with a dear life-long friend, Mary Drake. Their friendship started six decades ago with her late husband, Ike Drake. Stu, Janet, Ike, Mary and all their children shared many years of fun and memories. Over the past five years, Stu and Mary continued to enjoy each other's company and made many more memories.

Stu was preceded in death by his wife, Janet; his parents, Edward and Lillian Vavra; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Pete and Edna Garrett; brother-in-law, Victor Hladky; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Dean and Charlotte Garrett; and niece Shelby Lemke.

He is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Jana and Billy Slezak of Milligan; daughter and son-in-law, Jodene and Tom Lovegrove of Fairmont; grandchildren, Shane and wife Jasmine Slezak; Shawn and wife Jennifer Slezak; Taylor Slezak and fiancé Joey Gilmer all of Milligan; Whitney Lovegrove and Sydney Lovegrove of Fairmont; sister, Shirley Hladky of

Seward; brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Beth Vavra of Milligan; special friend,

Mary Drake of Dorchester and family; great grandchildren Noah, Lily, Kaydence, Jade and Lennon; special furry companion, Zoie; nieces and nephew and a host of other relatives and friends.

A Memorial Service was held on Monday, December 31, 2018, at 2:00 pm at the Milligan Auditorium in Milligan, Nebraska, with Kim Dunker officiating.

Musical selections played were "Grandpa" and "Go Rest High on That Mountain". Honorary pallbearers were his devoted grandchildren. A private family committal of ashes took place in the Bohemian National Cemetery in Milligan. Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

Tribute Wall



“ 74 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 31, 2018 at 03:42 PM

JW

“ Jan Wood lit a candle in memory of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra



Jan Wood - December 30, 2018 at 11:30 PM

KG

“ Jana, Jodene and families, so sorry to hear about Stu, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kathy and Tom Gillmore - December 30, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra.*



December 30, 2018 at 04:36 PM



“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra*



Kent & Rose Theobald - December 29, 2018 at 01:59 PM



“ *Wouldn't even know where to begin with memories. Friends, Racing, etc. Stu was a great man and will be missed by so many people. My sympathy to all.*

Pat Hoffschneider - December 29, 2018 at 01:12 PM



“ *To the family of Stu Vavra there's not enough one can say about Stu he was a good teacher , dependable and patient Stu will be missed greatly the world would be a better place with more people like him and will be a lot less without him! Stu even taught me a little body and fender work. I miss seeing you at Ron's for coffee!*

Paul Morgison - December 29, 2018 at 11:46 AM

KD

“ So sorry to hear the news. We all had some really good times. The car races, the snowmobile races. All the dances, the nights spent repairing the car for the next race. Dave enjoyed the time spent with Stu. My payers go out to his family. Karen Durfee and family.

Karen Durfee - December 29, 2018 at 11:07 AM

KT

“ Kenny Kovar and the Bananas Racing Team purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra.



Kenny Kovar and the Bananas Racing Team - December 29, 2018 at 09:11 AM

TS

“ Stu was a man that i was proud to call a Friend!

Tom Scheffert - December 29, 2018 at 07:41 AM

MA

“ Sorry for your loss, Stu was an awesome man ❤️

MarkSarahBrandonEthan - December 29, 2018 at 12:42 AM

SB

“ The memories of following all of his racing events were fun times in our earlier days.

Shirley Brunkow - December 28, 2018 at 08:56 PM

GG

“ Gary & Liz Gerberding lit a candle in memory of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra



Gary & Liz Gerberding - December 28, 2018 at 08:42 PM

JU

“ Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra



Janine Uldrich - December 28, 2018 at 08:16 PM

DK

“ Dearest beloved family of Stu...we are so very sorry for your loss...peace in knowing he is with his beloved wife, Janet....you have always been family to usknow we are thinking of you ...we love you all so much, Dean, Laura, Abbey, Ash, Stavo, Lil,Liv, Kora, Laney, Ava, and little dean....peace be with you..our dearest friends...

dean and laura kassik - December 28, 2018 at 06:48 PM



“ Terry Ann Brandt lit a candle in memory of Stuart L. "Stu" Vavra



Terry Ann Brandt - December 28, 2018 at 04:45 PM

PM

Super Stu was a good teacher and a great person who will be greatly missed. Not many men were as dependable or as patient thanks Stu i appreciate all I learned even a little body and fender work tell Bud hi!

Paul Morgison - December 29, 2018 at 03:18 AM