



## Zane W. Ray

May 27, 1955 - March 16, 2016

Zane William Ray was born to Walter and Marie (Smith) Ray on May 27, 1955 at Sugar Hill (Jefferson County) Pennsylvania, and passed away on March 16, 2016, at his home in Geneva, Nebraska at the age of 60 years old, 9 months, and 18 days. He was one of 6 children in the family.

Zane grew up in the Brookville, Pennsylvania area from 1955 to 1971. He was an over-the-road truck driver. He lived in various places throughout his life including Butte, Montana, Denver, Colorado, and Lincoln, Nebraska before settling in Geneva, Nebraska in 2002. He was an honest, hard working individual who enjoyed life to the fullest. He loved his children and only wanted what was best for them. He was also very proud of his safe driving awards during his years hauling freight.

Zane was married to Nora Wingfield of Sturgis, Michigan on October 11, 2008. Zane enjoyed camping, four wheeling, fishing, riding motorcycles and building things.

Zane was preceded in death by his parents; son Dustin; and three brothers: Sam, Rick, and Mark.

He is survived by his wife Nora of Geneva, Nebraska; son Tommy Ray of Lincoln, Nebraska; daughter Angela McCabe of Lincoln, Nebraska; sisters

Alice Ross of Toms River, New Jersey and Sue Smolik of Omaha, Nebraska; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva. Chaplain Dorothy Molczyk officiated the services. The recorded selections "Where Corn Don't Grow" and "How Great Thou Art" were played during the service.

Honorary pallbearers for the service included Steve Lovelady, David Lovelady, Justin Sautter, Eddie Lee, Bob Phillips, Ron Doremus, Billy Neville, Dick Brooks, and Bob Reeves. Private family interment was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery. Memorials are directed to Aseracare Hospice. Farmer & Son Funeral Home conducted the services.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ Found out about Zane recently when I tried to look him up. I have very kind memories of him and am saddened to know he is gone. May his family and friends know I send my deepest sympathy.  
Mr. Shannon Baughman  
Nephew in Ga.

Shannon Baughman - January 10, 2018 at 09:06 PM



Thank you Shannon.

Sue Ray-Smolik - January 22, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Flower Pics



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - March 26, 2016 at 11:19 AM

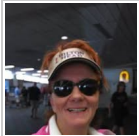


“ 6 files added to the album *Just Being Zane*



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**Sue Ross** - March 24, 2016 at 07:25 PM



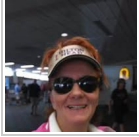
“ *Page 2*

*MEMORIES, MEMORIES, MEMORIES*

*He left me with loads of great memories so he will never be far from me every time I see a John Wayne movie, a buffalo, the Black Hills and, of course, Chocolate Chip Cookies! HUGS TO YOU IN HEAVEN BABY BROTHER!*

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**Sue Ross** - March 24, 2016 at 07:08 PM



## “ MEMORIES, MEMORIES, MEMORIES

*It was 1956 in Sugar Hill, Pennsylvania and my parents brought home this bundle of joy. I immediately became a surrogate Mother and watched him grow to become a strong, kind, caring, and very smart young man.*

*Zane followed his heart and moved west. Trucking called to him and he loved the wide open country. He entertained me with stories on the phone of his adventures into the isolated mountain range of the rolling Black Hills. I heard stories from South Dakota to Wyoming expressing his love for the buffalo by the roadside and the silent beauty of the farmlands. He sent me enough photos to start my own private collection of his beloved land.*

*On his trips back to New Jersey, my daughter and I took him to climb the cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. He looked in awe at the pounding of the waves on the shore, the power manifested in this gigantic body of water with its feathery, watery spray showering the entire beach area. He seemed mesmerized with the peacefulness absorbed from watching it. I believe he also fell in love with the ocean.*

*He loved nature regardless of the form it came in. Some of his best stories he shared were of taking the ATV's to Halsey and the Black Hills with his faithful companion Nora. He also loved food and no one could cook like Nora! I remember visiting with him before they were married and he was SOOOO excited, she had just mailed him 13.5 dozen of homemade chocolate chip cookies. He was in seventh heaven. Every time I looked, he was taking another one out of the package with this huge smile and his eyes twinkling.*

*Being a nutrition nut, I talked him into trying a homemade yogurt shake. He tried it and said it was "okay". When he asked for another one I got suspicious and discovered he was putting vodka into it so now he was really enjoying it. You had to love him; he was just his own person but I did discover that he loved salads so we made a lot while I was there. First a salad, then 3 chocolate chip cookies! Yep,*

*that was our Zane!*

*His hard work and determination resulted in developing a hobby of restoring tractors and ATVs. He was so proud of his restored John Deere tractors. He search like Detective Colombo for everything from discontinued parts to exactly the right color and design. I opened my mailbox one day and he had sent me a model John Deere to display along with about twelve Nebraska tee shirts over the years. I was his part of Nebraska in New Jersey.*

*I loved sharing his ATV rides when I visited; he introduced me to a hobby I absolutely love – thank you Baby Brother and I will think of you when I ride.*

*I thank God daily for having had the opportunity to love this Baby Brother of mine. The past couple of years, we spoke just about every evening on the phone. One of his favorite topics was the History Channel and especially “Cuban Chrome”. He chatted with me about his caring neighbors including the famous Budweiser Bob and regularly how much he appreciated Justin. He shared how Justin was always there when he got stuck with a project and he would then help him. He shared how Billy was more than a great friend and lived in Billy’s lounge; it was like an extension on his body; that and his remote control. He enjoyed his trips to Texas via Billy and I heard about the large Texas landscape and the busy cities. His “little girl scouts” which he could not say “No” to when the Girl Scout cookies came out. Kelly, from Subway, who took the time out of a very busy schedule to personally deliver, of course, cookies for his birthday. He loved his family, his town and life.*

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**Sue Ross** - March 24, 2016 at 07:08 PM

AR

“ As a young child I recall how much fun Zane and Mark had terrorizing me when we watched Alfred Hitchcock's movie titled *The Birds* and as an adult I have been honored and blessed to have him as an Uncle and a friend. Time and distance did not and will not separate us. His humor and strong work ethic will remain in my heart and serve as an example on how to make it through challenging times. A good heart stopped beating and a great soul is now in heaven watching over us and maybe even having a good laugh at some of the things silly humans do! His suffering is over and the party in heaven just got better. My sincere appreciation to all who helped Zane and Nora through this long hard journey. I will always be thankful for the kindness and care provided to my Uncle. Blessed be.

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**Annette Ross** - March 23, 2016 at 04:46 PM

 Steven Wagle

“ I remember being out with Zane one night, driving his old pick-up Thatcher he somehow had dropped the motor from a Kansas State police cruiser into some time before. I was behind the wheel and we were out on hwy 75, near Murray. The speedometer hit 125 and Zane was still growling at me, "Put your foot in it, ya big sissy!" That's how I'll remember Zane. Balls to the wall, and then some. Be at peace, brother.

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**Steven Wagle** - March 22, 2016 at 05:24 PM

NR

“ I will miss my best friend. Love you forever .  
Love your wife Nora



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**Nora Ray** - March 22, 2016 at 05:09 PM

SS

“ 9 files added to the album



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**Sue Smolik** - March 22, 2016 at 04:22 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:20 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:20 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:20 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:19 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:18 PM

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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:17 PM

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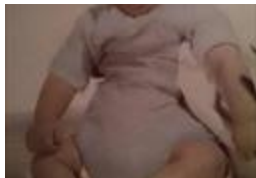


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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:17 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 04:16 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 02:50 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 02:50 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUE SMOLIK** - March 22, 2016 at 02:49 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



SUE SMOLIK - March 22, 2016 at 02:48 PM

SB

*The way he looked the last time I saw him. Back in the mid 70s. He sure was good to us. Full of adventure and always into something exciting.*

Shannon Baughman - January 10, 2018 at 11:33 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



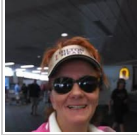
SUE SMOLIK - March 22, 2016 at 02:47 PM



“ Sue Ray-Smolik lit a candle in memory of Zane W. Ray



Sue Ray-Smolik - March 22, 2016 at 12:47 PM



“ Sue Ross lit a candle in memory of Zane W. Ray

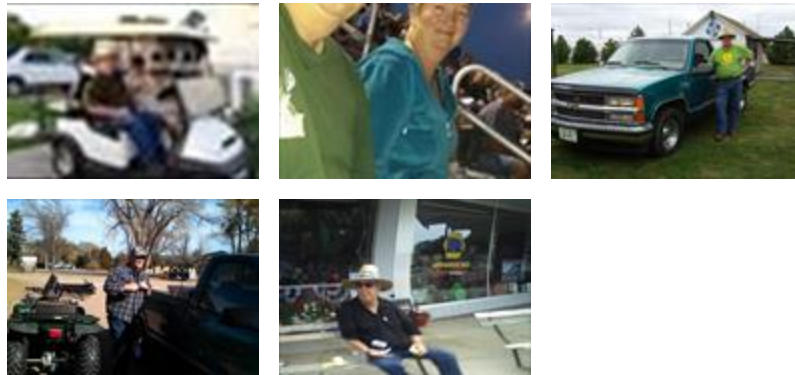


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**Sue Ross** - March 19, 2016 at 07:48 PM



“ 5 files added to the album



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**Sue Ross** - March 19, 2016 at 07:46 PM



“ Vicki lit a candle in memory of Zane W. Ray



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**Vicki** - March 18, 2016 at 06:12 PM