



Rodney Eugene Erickson

May 31, 1932 - April 14, 2024

Age 91 of Roseville, Minnesota passed away peacefully on April 14, 2024.

Rodney was born on May 31, 1932, in Kulm, North Dakota to Victor and Olga Erickson.

Rodney was a graduate of Bethel College (University), was active at Central Baptist Church in St. Paul for over 60 years, and spent many years teaching Social Studies in Fridley, MN. Rodney is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Barbara, and his dear brother, Dennis. He is survived by his three children: Tammie (Dean) Junkans, Todd, and Timothy (Kristina); four grandchildren: Erin (Carson) King, Daniel (Brooke) Junkans, Katherine and Sarah Erickson, and four great grandchildren: Graydon, Cameron and Brennan King, and August Junkans. He is survived by his sister Elaine Mars, his brother Rodger (Diana) Erickson, and sister-in-law Barbara Erickson. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Many will remember Rod seated at the organ on Sunday mornings, where he served faithfully for over fifty years. Even as his memory declined due to dementia, he was able to play both piano and organ, his fingers knowing exactly what to do. While he loved varied musical styles, it was the old hymns that he was able to play or sing until the last weeks of his life. Throughout his life Rod blessed so many with his gift of music.

Rod grew up in a pastor's home, living in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. After high school he attended and graduated from Bethel College, where he met his wife, Barbara. Before getting married and starting a career, Rod spent two years in the Army, serving in a small town in France, where he was able to play the organ in the village church when he wasn't working. When he came back to Minnesota he accepted the only job he ever interviewed for, that of Junior High teacher.

Rod spent 37 years as a Junior High/Middle School teacher in the Fridley school district. He impacted hundreds of students, both in the classroom and as he chaperoned groups of eighth grade students on trips to Washington D.C. Rod was recognized in 1991 as Fridley Teacher of the Year. He was a lifelong learner. Even after his professional teaching days were over, he was always reading, writing to cousins and teaching his kids and grandkids new things.

Rod loved being outdoors. He walked for miles every morning. He became known to extended family as "Ranger Rod" when he and Barb purchased a cabin on Pleasant Lake in northern Minnesota. Together they made the cabin a favorite place where extended family grew up together, friends from church gathered for weekends of fun, and where missionary families who may not be able to afford a vacation were welcome. "Ranger Rod" was usually found driving the pontoon boat, stoking the fire, or reading a book in the beauty of God's creation. Rod and Barb always made people feel welcome, whether at the cabin, home, or at church. Rod demonstrated hospitality in one-on-one conversations, where he could ask questions and learn about the other person, making each person feel significant.

Rod loved his family. He poured into his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. He was so proud of his three kids for their accomplishments and bragged about them wherever he went. He attended all of his grandkids' performances,

sporting events, and birthday parties. Even at the age of 90 he would get on the floor to play with his great-grandsons. Rod had over 100 first cousins and took great joy and pride in communicating with them regularly. He cared for people deeply and invested into their lives, demonstrating the love of Christ in his quiet, gentle way.

Visitation Monday, May 6th from 4-7 PM at Washburn-McReavy Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Chapel; 515 Highway 96 West, Shoreview. Memorial service Tuesday, May 7th at 11:00 AM (visitation 10-11 AM) at Central Baptist Church; 420 N Roy St., St. Paul. Interment Roselawn Cemetery.

Memorials preferred to Central Baptist Church or Wycliffe Bible Translators for the ministry of Scott and Paula Starker, account #300072.

Livestream Available at:

<https://centralbaptistchurch.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af5b747e2b064419b741bc4bd&id=872ea8601c&e=6c017c3247>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Visitation

MAY 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
420 N. Roy Street
St.Paul, MN 55113

Memorial Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
420 N. Roy Street
St.Paul, MN 55113

Reception

MAY 7. 12:15 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Central Baptist Church
420 N. Roy Street
St.Paul, MN 55113

Graveside Service

MAY 7. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Roselawn Cemetery
803 West Larpenteur Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

Tribute Wall

RO

“ I was just reflecting on my eighth grade field trip to Washington DC with Mr Erickson. My own son is now in 8th grade and I met his social studies teacher a few nights ago. It brought back memories of our class discussions and being in his home room. The trip to Washington was a huge event when I was growing up. I was so happy to get to go and experience the things he setup. He had already been running it for several years so he pretty much had all the kinks worked out. Such a kind man and so knowledgeable. I'm sad that I didn't think to reach out earlier but glad to see he had a long life and continued to positively impact all those he came across. RIP.

Rob - September 13, 2024 at 11:41 PM

TE

Thank you so much for sharing this Rob. This was very meaningful. My siblings and I always love hearing stories from Dad's former students.
- Todd Erickson, Rod's son

Todd Erickson - February 04 at 02:43 PM

SN

“ Rod was such a great man. Among many memories, I remember the last couple of years when he would come in to the church during the week and play the organ, and I could open the office door and let that be the soundtrack to my work day. What a blessing to me and everyone who knew him.

Steve Nuessle - May 07, 2024 at 12:08 PM

KT

“ May his memory be a blessing to you and yours, Todd.

Kelli Tatum - May 06, 2024 at 10:27 PM

CL

“ We have fond memories of long conversations, laughing about chemistry-based table conversations, and listening to Rod playing the pipe organ. Rod was always so encouraging with his greetings. We are confident he is enjoying his conversations with Jesus. Lovingly, Chris and Barbara Lundberg

Chris & Barbara Lundberg - May 04, 2024 at 10:43 AM

FC

“ From Charlene and Johnson Cousins purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Rodney Eugene Erickson.



From Charlene and Johnson Cousins - April 28, 2024 at 09:17 PM

KJ

“ Our family has so many beautiful memories of Rod. I remember him as Mr. Erickson, my Jr.High U.S. Government teacher, then as our welcoming host for many yearly gatherings at Pleasant Lake for Fourth of July celebrations. These are precious memories and we miss Rod and his kindness, interest in our lives and his quiet humor. He truly added so much joy to our lives! We are praying for the Erickson, Junkans and King families as you grieve this loss. Much love to you from the Eastside Johnsons.

Kristan Johnson - April 27, 2024 at 08:12 AM

WR

“ Though we lived a block away, we somehow did not meet Rod and Barb until we began attending Central Baptist Church about 30 years ago. Our first opportunity to meet people at Central was when we were invited with a group from their Sunday School class to a weekend at their lake cabin. It initiated what became one of our closest friendships over 30 years of shared meals, short trips, work projects at the church, lots of laughter, and support for us during some difficult years. Dolores and Wayne Roberts

Wayne and Dolores Roberts - April 26, 2024 at 04:06 PM



“ Remembering Rod fondly, and sending love and sympathy to the whole family.

Margo Grant - April 24, 2024 at 11:04 PM

DB

“ I enjoyed his organ playing, miss it much Darleen Barnes

Darleen Barnes - April 24, 2024 at 03:23 PM