In Loving Memory

Norman R. Schawo, 69, of Sublette went to be with the Lord early the morning of March 23, 2013. He had bravely battled cancer for several years, but never lost his hope for the future, or his love for life. He was born September 12, 1943, in Liberal, KS, the son of Elmer F. and Rosalie A. (Ridenour) Schawo. Norman was preceded in death by his mother and father, 1st wife Sara Villines of 10 years, 2nd wife Eva Elaine of 19 years, his infant son Stephen Ray, and sister Ruth Ann.

He married Bobbie Gunn in 1996. She survives. He is also survived by his children: Jack Schawo and partner, Ed Ballinger, Fort Worth, TX; Derrick Schawo and wife Teresa, Grants Pass, OR; Nikki Gustine and husband, Steve, Ada, OK; Stephenie Hall and husband Greg, Colorado Springs, CO; Elisabeth Schawo and husband, Courtney Wieck, Denver, CO; six grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Three siblings, who he loved to tease, also survive him, Ralph Schawo and wife Dee, Casa Grande, AZ; Esther Garver and husband, John, St. Marys, GA; Jim Schawo, Michigan City, IN; aunts and uncles, Gladys Schmitt, Liberal; John and Pat Ridenour, Fairway, KS, Paul and Margo Ridenour, Raleigh, NC, Sue Ridenour, Avon Indiana, and Don Ridenour, Wilmington, VA.

Norman was a graduate of Kismet High School, class of 1961. He joined the Air Force in 1962 and served as a radar and communications technician. He had two tours of duty in Viet Nam and also served in Spain, Thailand, England and Italy, as well as several duty stations in the U.S. He was extremely proud that he was able to serve his county and retired in 1990 from Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. He returned to southwest Kansas after his retirement and worked at T & L Irrigation in Sublette as a welder along with his father. After leaving T & L, he worked for Trailmobile, Halliburton and Stoppels.

Norman enjoyed tinkering with computers, especially the Commodore. He was an avid genealogist, tracing the Schawo family tree back to relatives in Germany and Austria. He loved cats and never found one that didn’t love him in return. Norman enjoyed spending time with his

family, especially when a tub of homemade ice cream was being made, or when the grandchildren were around. He inherited his father's love for discussing the weather and telling tall tales with his siblings.

Norman was a loving son, devoted husband and beloved father and a good friend to many.

• Funeral services will be 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Liberal, KS. Interment will be in Liberal Cemetery.

Friends may call at Miller Mortuary 10 A.M.-7 P.M. Friday. The family suggests donations in his memory to either the Wounded Warrior Project, or The American Cancer Society in care of Miller Mortuary.

Paid obituary