



Eric H Pierce was born in Burlington, Iowa on April 11, 1940 to parents Arthur H. Pierce and Vera (Gustafson) Pierce. Eric was very close to his mother's Swedish side of the family and spent much of his time out in rural Iowa helping his many aunts and uncles on the farm. Eric and his brother inherited their father's love of guns and hunting, and their mother's love of fishing.

As a senior in high school, Eric's family moved to Aurora, Illinois where his father transferred with the railroad. It was in Aurora where Eric met Nancy Bishop, his future wife. Eric and Nancy's first date consisted of a drive out to Eric's favorite duck hunting spot to watch the ducks come in! Eric and Nancy married in May of 1960. After 5 years of marriage they had 3 children; Marc, Kristan, and Signe. Eric worked 22 years in Montgomery, Illinois as the Paint Lab Supervisor at Lyon Metal.

Throughout the years, Eric was an avid duck, goose, and critter hunter. As a young married man, he also supplemented his income by trapping and selling hides. Eric had gone west many times to hunt in Wyoming and Montana. At the age of 40, Eric was ready for a life change both in career and location. Eric and Nancy packed up and moved to Bozeman where Eric and his son, Marc, would pursue their dream of opening a decoy carving factory. With Eric, Marc and one friend, Big Sky Carvers was born in the fall of 1980. Over the years, Eric and Marc grew their business, sold carvings all over the world and employed hundreds of people. Eric retired and sold his interest in the business in 2000. Since retiring, he focused on the "important things in life" - hunting and more hunting. Eric had always been very active in Ducks Unlimited, a tireless committee member, fund raiser, donator, etc. Eric also believed in getting the youth out in the field, teaching them safety and the art of hunting. Over the years he hunted with not only his grandsons, but other youth as well. Nothing delighted him more than to see a young hunter take his first shot.

Eric is preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Vera Pierce, and his brother, Larry Pierce. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Nancy (Bishop) Pierce; their 3 children, Marc A. (Sherrie) Pierce, Kristan E. (Raymond) Basta, Signe L. Bolton; his sister Margaret (David) Banks; Matthew Coan, Jacob Coan, and 8 Grandchildren.

Eric will be remembered as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, jokester, and hunter. He will be greatly missed by many. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make donations to:

**Montana Ducks Unlimited
Eric Pierce Memorial
102 Molihan Lane
Lewistown, MT 59457**

Hunt 'em up Papa.

A celebration of Eric's life will be held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at Evangelical Free Church, 1701 S. 19th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59718.