



Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Eldon "Apie" Van Dyken, 60, was called home to his Heavenly Father on October 8, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Eldon was born on June 7, 1947 to Peter R. and Gertrude Van Dyken of Manhattan. He spent his entire life in the Churchill area. We will truly miss all the wonderful times spent around the campfire, listening to Eldon reminisce about his early childhood on the farm with his brothers. Eldon graduated from Manhattan Christian School in 1965, after graduation, he served six years in the National Guard.

Eldon married Sharon Sinnema on August 1, 1967, and this past August, they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Eldon and Sheri were also blessed with three wonderful children, Vince, Lorna, and Stacy.

Eldon worked various jobs in his younger days, but a majority of his life he worked at Amsterdam Lumber as a carpenter. Following the death of his father in 1988, Eldon and Sheri also took over the custodian position as Manhattan Christian Reformed Church. In May of 2004, Eldon decided it was time for a change, and accepted the Head Custodian position at Manhattan Christian School. He truly loved getting to know all the staff and students, and many wonderful friendships were built during his time as MCS.

Eldon was an active member of the Manhattan Christian Reformed Church.

Eldon enjoyed spending time with his family and felt very blessed to have his children and grandchildren very close. He loved camping and fishing, even though rarely were any fish caught. He loved gardening, woodworking, flying his remote control helicopter, bowling, and tinkering in his shop. There wasn't anything Eldon couldn't fix or build.

Survivors include his wife Sharon, and children, Vince (Adele), Lorna (Sean) Wyatt, and Stacy (Kurt) Burley all of Manhattan. His beloved grandchildren Joseph, Jake, Dillon, Jacie, Miranda, and Samantha. He is also survived by his sisters, Joyce Heidema, Karen (Hank) Dyksterhouse, Cindy (Dave) Johnson, all of Manhattan; brothers, Ray of Manhattan, Gary (Ellen) of Michigan, and Daryl (Carol) of South Africa. In addition, there were many nieces and nephews who remember him with love.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws Sam and Jessie Sinnema, and brother-in-law John Heidema.

Eldon will be greatly missed by all those that knew and loved him. A special thanks to the staff of the Bozeman Deaconess Cancer Center and the Hospice staff. The community of Churchill lost an extremely talented and dependable handyman. We will always love you!!!!

A celebration of Eldon's life will be held on Thursday at 3:00 at the Manhattan Christian Reformed Church. Graveside service will be held at 2:00 at the Churchill cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial can be made to Manhattan Christian School.