



Jon Erich Sleder

October 5, 1944 - January 19, 2014

Jon Erich Sleder (Big Jon), 69 of Traverse City passed away on January 19, 2014 in Ypsilanti, where he was living for the winter with his daughter.

Jon was born on October 5, 1944 to the late Erich and Jean (Paton) Sleder.

As a young man Jon spent most of his free time at his grandparents farm where he raised angus beef cattle and showed them at the State Fair. He won Grand Champion ribbons for the cattle he showed. Jon also worked at the family meat market: Sleder's Meats, delivering groceries. While attending Traverse City High School, Jon played varsity football and graduated in 1963. Jon then went to Michigan State University Turf Management School. After graduation Jon worked at different golf courses and construction companies, before becoming the Grounds Superintendent at Elmbrook Golf Course. Jon had an interest in seeding, and was considered an expert for all of the courses he worked for across the state. He also worked for Caverly Golf Course Construction. During the winter months, Jon plowed snow at Grand Traverse Auto. Jon then started his own business: J&E Seeding Inc. He also worked at Bahle Farms of Suttons Bay during the construction of the course. Jon was instrumental in reconstructing the baseball field at Traverse City Christian School, the soccer field at Miles Kimberly park in Maple City and the Kingsley High School football field.

On June 30, 1974 Jon and the late Carol (Kolorik) Sleder had their pride and joy, Rebekah (Becky) Rose. Becky was involved in 4-H where Jon was her leader and helped her show beef cattle at the Northwestern MI Fair.

In his spare time, Jon enjoyed farming. He was a huge fan of Michigan State Football and Basketball. He really enjoyed spending time with his Uncle, Dad and daughter when he had the chance to see them. Jon also enjoyed going out to the fair, of which he was a lifetime member, and seeing the 4-H projects; especially the Beef Cattle. Driving all across the county, to visit friends and take in the sights was another highlight of Jon's life.

Jon will be greatly missed for his wonderful sense of humor and personality by his friends and acquaintances. He was well liked by all who met him. Jon was very giving and would help anyone out if they needed it. He also loved animals, especially dogs. He treasured their companionship and in particular developed a great relationship with his daughter's dog, whom he spoiled with many treats and long car rides.

Jon is survived by his daughter Becky Rose of Northville and his sisters Ruth Ann (Roger) Quinn of Traverse City and Barbara Sleder of Manistee, 2 nephews, 2 nieces and several great nieces and great nephews.

Jon was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and many cousins.

The memorial service celebrating Jon's life will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 12 noon at the First Congregational Church with a luncheon following. Jon will be laid to rest at the Garden of Remembrance at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family c/o Reynolds Jonkhoff or to the Northwestern MI 4-H livestock program beef program.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to share your thoughts and memories with the family and to sign Jon's online guestbook.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

MAY **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

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First Congregational Church

6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ Margo Ackerman lit a candle in memory of Jon Erich Sleder



Margo Ackerman - May 04, 2014 at 11:59 PM



“ Melissa Leuallen Wood lit a candle in memory of Jon Erich Sleder



Melissa Leuallen Wood - January 24, 2014 at 07:22 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of your dad Becky. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
hugs

amanda stathakis & family - January 23, 2014 at 08:59 PM