

## Jerry Roger DeVilder, 71

Jerry Roger DeVilder was born on Oct. 10, 1941, in Grinnell, the son of Freddie Albert De Vilder and Margaret Emma (Lavent) De Vilder. He spent his early years in and around Brooklyn, attending country schools in Madison and Bear Creek townships. He graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1960 and enlisted in the Navy in 1961. When his father died suddenly in 1962, Jerry was discharged to return to the family farm and help his mother and seven younger siblings at home. Jerry attended Ellsworth Junior College, where he played football, and later received an AA degree at Kirkwood Community College.

Jerry moved to Rochester, Minn., in 1986 and was employed as a sales associate for Montgomery Ward and at Chuck's Appliance Store. At the time of his death, he was maintenance manager at Hillcrest Apartments.

Jerry's life took a dramatic turn in 1978, with a renewal of his Christian faith commitment. He spoke often and freely of his faith wherever he was. He was an active member of New Life Worship Center while living in Rochester.

Jerry put himself fully into whatever he undertook, whether it was his job as maintenance manager or helping tend the grounds of the church or working with the Mechanical History Roundtable at the History Center of Olmsted County in Rochester. For a number of years he spent his vacation time helping with the fall harvest on his brother David's farm and for neighboring farmers. He loved farm life and antique tractors and was especially proud of his own restored Farmall M tractor.

A very social guy, Jerry enjoyed spending time with friend John Robey in Brooklyn, in recent years, going to races, participating in antique tractor pulls and exhibitions, and visiting friends and family. He took special pleasure in getting to know his grandsons and watching their sporting activities.

Jerry died Thursday, July 18, 2013, at the History Center farm as he was parking his tractor after mowing. He is survived by his sons, Adam DeVilder and Matthew Zimmerman; stepchildren, Deanna Slaven-Hagele and Brian Slaven; three grandsons, Zachery, Keaton, and Brody Zimmerman; and his siblings, David (Margery) DeVilder, Mary O'Connor, Carolyn (Lyle) Roudabush, Christine (Steven) George, Sam (Judy) DeVilder, and Jeff (Sara) DeVilder.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Cynthia (John) Lurkens; by his former wife, Cynthia Clubb; and by his former wife, Rita Downs.

A memorial service will be held at New Life Worship Center in Rochester at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 26.

Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at <http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com>.

Memorial gifts may be given in Jerry's name to the Mechanical History Roundtable, Rochester, Minn.

PCR 7-24-2013

## Jerry Roger DeVilder

Jerry Roger DeVilder, 71, of Rochester, Minn., and formerly of this area, died Thursday, July 18, 2013, in Rochester at the History Center of Olmsted County. He died of natural causes while parking his tractor after mowing at the center's farm.

A memorial service will be held at New Life Worship Center in Rochester at 5 p.m. on July 26. A memorial service will take place in Brooklyn at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made in his name to the Mechanical History Roundtable, Rochester, Minn. Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at <http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com>.

Jerry was born on Oct. 10, 1941, in Grinnell, the son of Freddie Albert De Vilder and Margaret Emma Lavent De Vilder. He spent his early years in and around Brooklyn, attending country schools in Madison and Bear Creek townships. He graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1960 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1961. When his father died suddenly in 1962, Jerry was discharged to return to the family farm and help his mother and seven younger siblings at home.

Jerry attended Ellsworth Junior College, where he played football, and later received an AA degree at Kirkwood Community College. He was employed in the Brooklyn, Grinnell, and Marshalltown communities for a number of years.

Jerry moved to Rochester, Minn., in 1986 and was employed as a sales associate for Montgomery Ward and at Chuck's Appliance Store. At the time of his death he was maintenance manager at Hillcrest Apartments.

He is survived by his sons Adam DeVilder and Matthew Zimmerman; stepchildren Deanna Slaven-Hagele and Brian Slaven; three grandsons; and his siblings, David DeVilder, Mary O'Connor, Carolyn Roudabush, Christine George, Sam DeVilder, and Jeff DeVilder.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Cynthia Lurkens, his former wife Cynthia Clubb, and his former wife Rita Downs.

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