

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE LEMKER
September 30, 1948 - July 1, 2016

On July 1, 2016 the black powder community lost our friend Mike Lemker, age 67 passing away at Mayo Clinic after a long hard fought battle with cancer. Mike of Grundy Center, Iowa was born on September 30, 1948 in Spirit Lake, the son of Archie and Ardis (Rohan) Lemker. Funeral services were held July 7 at St Gabriel Catholic Church in rural Reinbeck.

Mike is survived by his wife Lucy (Van Maasdam) of Grundy Center, son Chad, wife Jessica of Forest Lake, MN, daughter Lonna Jensen, husband Cole of Loveland, CO, grandchildren Tulla, Declan and one on the way. A sister Louise Eckard of Spokane, WA, a brother Don, wife Carol of Pueblo West, CO.

Mike and Lucy were married December 11, 1971 and they farmed in the Lake Park area for 15 years, moving to Dike (IA) where he worked for Dike Co-op, later working for Hudson Co-op where he was a LP salesman and eventually retiring from AG Vantage FS in 2014, after 12 years of service.

Over the years Mike had many hobbies. In his younger years he drag raced, owned three street rods, rebuilding, tinkering and enjoying driving them around often. Mike was always looking for a deal. He loved searching the countryside for the best deal possible and looking for “treasures” as he would call them. His final major passion was riding his Harley. Riding in the wind, listening to the music and spending time with his wife and friends on rides became his final greatest adventure.

How most of us became acquisitioned with Mike was through shooting black powder muzzleloaders. He first started shooting with Turkey Foot Long Rifle Gun Club. He belonged to Beaver Creek Plainsmen and was an active member of the Iowa Black Powder Federation and National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, competing at both Friendship, Indiana and the NMLRA winter

Nationals in Phoenix, AZ and participating in the Iowa and Nebraska Territorials each year. Mike won many medals over the years shooting bench and later changing to cross sticks, traveled many miles in high level of competition. His many friends in the gun club called him "captain gadget" for the many things he would end up making and selling.

Mike loved his family most of all and making memories that are cherished by his wife Lucy, son Chad and daughter Lonna and grandchildren were his favorite things to do.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

I am ending this with a few lines from a poem on the service folder, which made me both smile and brought tears thinking of Mike. So long to our friend!

.....though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear.
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say---"Welcome Home"!