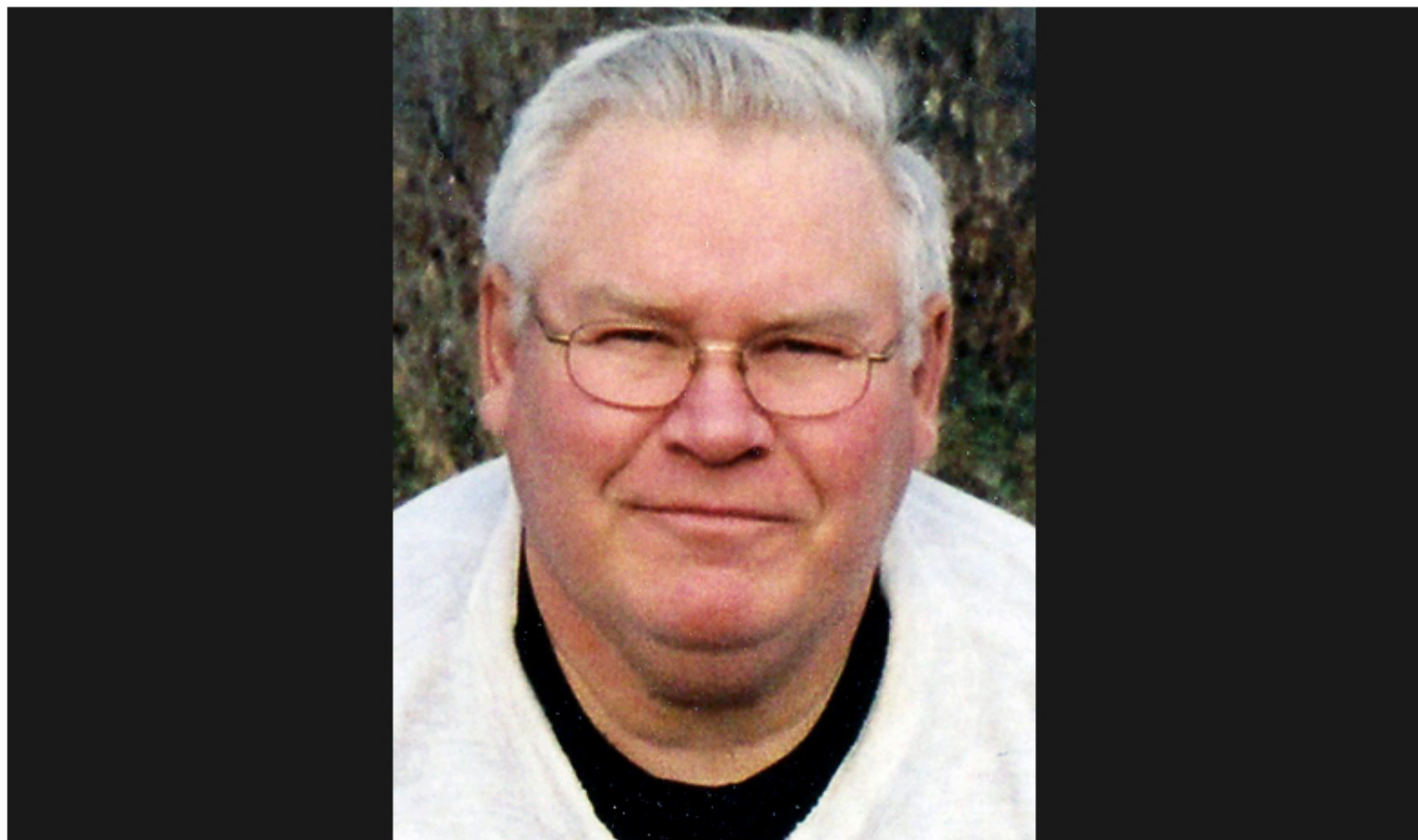


Robert Matzke

Jun 18, 2014



WASHBURN — Robert Richard Matzke, 74, Washburn, passed away June 16, 2014, after a long battle with cancer at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 19, at DaWise-Perry Funeral Services, Mandan, with the Rev. Darrel Aleson officiating. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Visitation is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home on Thursday.

Robert was born May 15, 1940, in North Mankato, Minn., to Harold and Mable (Montgomery) Matzke, the eldest of three children. Robert attended school in North Mankato. His family moved to Bismarck in 1948, and he attended Wachter grade school, Wachter Jr. High and Bismarck High School, graduating in 1958. He attended Bismarck Junior College, the NDHP Academy in Devils Lake, the National FBI Academy in Virginia, and a NCO School while in the USAF. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961-65, stationed in Grand Forks, Lacklin, Texas, Lybia, Africa and Labrador, Canada. Robert was very proud to have had the opportunity to serve his country. After the service he relocated to Denver, Colo., attended a Camera Tech School and worked on construction of shopping centers and homes until 1967. Robert began his work career at the age of 14. He worked in the fields of Will's Nursery during summer vacations and after school at Armour Creamery. He worked with the late Tom Orchard, DMV, helping to construct the first enclosures at the Bismarck Dakota Zoo. He assisted in maintaining the original zoo animals, while working at Mary-Mark Kennels, and turkey and hog farms. In Bismarck he owned and operated a taxidermy business for 10 years.

He married Diane Mayers in 1965. To this union two beautiful children, Wendy and Harold, were born. Robert joined the Bismarck Police department in 1967 and spent 29 and a half years with the department. It was during his time as Chief that the agency achieved accreditation status — an event he was quite proud of. A second accomplishment was the establishment of a deer depredation hunting program on city properties. Robert retired in 1996, and he and his wife built their home on the Missouri River south of Washburn.

He was active life time member in the VFW, involved in the Legion clubs, Sakakawea and Flickertail Woodcarvers, and a lifelong member of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association. He enjoyed fishing and hunting with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; one daughter, Wendy (Wes) Oliver, and their children, Patrick and Mitchell, Pensacola, Fla.; one son, Harold Matzke, Bismarck; two sisters, Jeanne Gorden, Bismarck, and Patricia Herdebu, Baldwin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Mable; his brothers-in-law, Glen Herdebu and Alvern Gorden; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Please sign his guest book and share memories at www.dawiseperry.com.