

*In Loving Memory Of*

# *Elmer T. Nitzschke, Jr.*

*June 26, 1933  
Remsen, Iowa*

*January 23, 2016  
Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**BEAUTY**  
You asked me once  
What beauty was  
And where it might be found.  
I professed to know  
And told you so  
With words I thought quite sound,  
"The senses each  
Transmit their reach  
And picture in our mind  
The good, the bad,  
The sometimes sad,  
But views of every kind.  
"Pleasant views," I said,  
Are beauty's stead  
When everything's just right."  
This all is true,  
But nothing new –  
Just logic clear and bright.

But ask me now  
What beauty is  
And this I'll say to you,  
"The touch of your heart,  
Though miles apart,  
Is beauty soft and new.  
The sound of your smile  
As it speaks to beguile  
Is beauty loud in my mind.  
The sight of your care  
In visions we share  
Is beauty warm and kind."  
So Alas!  
The logic once known  
Has suddenly flown  
Since meeting the likes of you.  
The price I demand  
Is holding your hand  
And seeking all beauty anew.

Elmer T. Nitzschke - 1979

## **WAKE SERVICE**

*7:00 p.m., Friday, January 29, 2016  
Ducheneaux Chapel ~ Swiftbird, South Dakota*

## **MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

*11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 30, 2016  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota*

## **OFFICIATING**

*Fr. Jerry Kopel*

## **EULOGIST**

*Karen Ellen Ducheneaux*

## **CASKETBEARERS "Grandsons"**

*Dylan Nihiser, Thomas Larsen, Riley Racek,  
Garrett Racek, Nicholas Racek, Jacob Nitzschke*

## **HONORARY CASKETBEARERS**

*Sebastian LeBeau, Franklin & Ernestine Ducheneaux,  
Karen & Mike DeVine, Greg Ducheneaux,  
Marlene Ducheneaux, Cathey Ducheneaux, Bill Davis,  
Les & Debbie Ducheneaux, Bill Wuttke, Mick Bliese,  
Candace Ducheneaux, Regina Ducheneaux,  
Staff & Residents of the Oahe Manor*

**ORGANIST** ~ *Lynell Jessen*

**GUITARIST** ~ *Dylan Nihiser "The Long Goodbye"*

**HYMNS** ~ "Amazing Grace" "Ave Maria"  
"Song of Farewell" "How Great Thou Art"

## **INTERMENT**

*Ducheneaux Family Cemetery ~ Swiftbird, South Dakota*

# In Loving Memory

**Elmer Thomas Nitzschke, Jr.**, lawyer, judge, carpenter, poet, was born on June 26, 1933 in Remsen, Iowa to Elmer, Sr. and Florentine Stoos. He was a "Depression baby." While his grandfather, Hermann Nitzschke, was a wealthy farmer, Elmer, Sr. had incurred the displeasure of this strict Lutheran by marrying a Catholic and he had to struggle to make a living for his growing family which also included Shirley McLaughlin, Ron, Dale, David, Norma Peterson, John, and Mary Lindblom.

Elmer, Jr. resided in Remsen from birth until he left for college in 1951. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Remsen from first to twelfth grade. He obtained a BA from the University of St. John the Baptist in Collegeville, MN in three years, graduating on May 31, 1954. He obtained a law degree from the University of New Mexico in June of 1959.

On July 6, 1954 Elmer married Helen Eilts. They had seven children: Guy (10/18/55), Greg (2/3/57), Angela (6/21/59), Amy (11/6/60), Joel (5/4/65), Jeff (2/7/67) and Monica (7/10/71). They divorced. On May 3, 1980, Elmer married Karen Rae Ducheneaux and in June of that year adopted her daughter, Tasina (9/8/72).

Elmer had fifteen grandchildren and one great grandchild. Greg and Tammy (Stephanie Freeman, Kristina, Jacob), Angela Hoffmann (Riley Racek and Lindsey and great granddaughter, Maisie, Garrett Racek, Nicholas Racek), Jeff and Katie (Alivia, Blake, Cora, Beau), Monica Myott (Thomas Larsen, Ginny & Laura Rothwell), Tasina Ducheneaux (Dylan & Noah Nihiser).

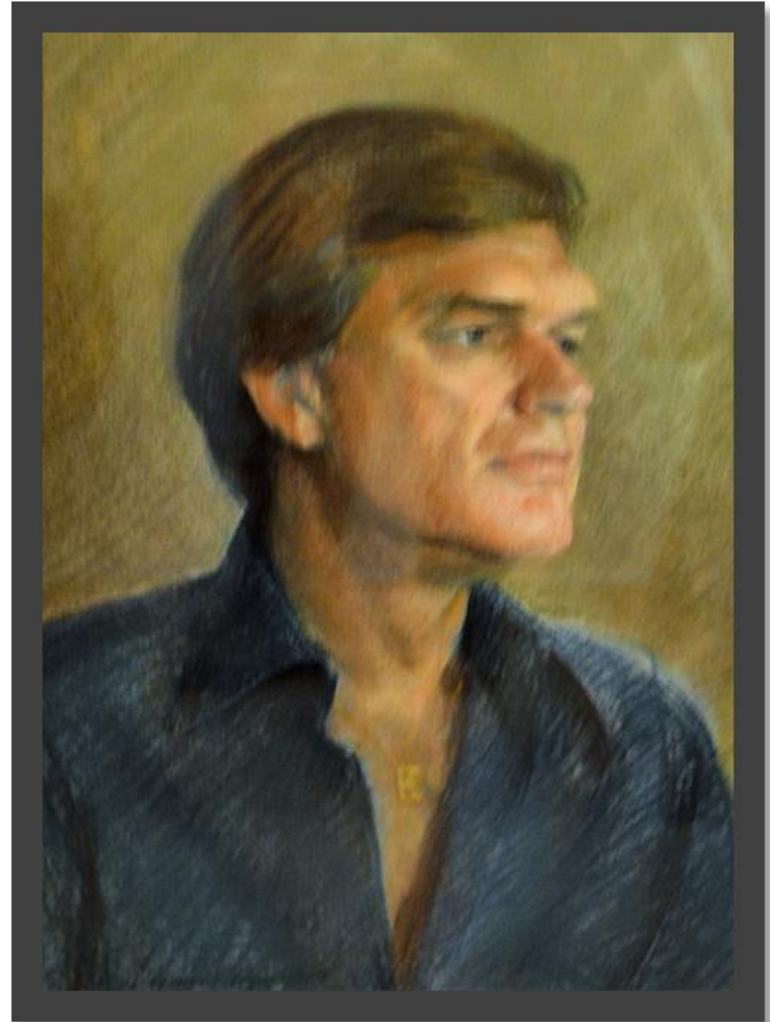
Elmer always worked at some job to earn money, from his first paper route as a child, to working in Beck's General Store in Remsen, to working for the telephone company setting up poles in the summer, to working at the Liturgical Press at St. John's, to working at the University of New Mexico bookstore. He also hunted small game to supplement the family diet.

Elmer's legal work began in 1959 when he joined the U.S. Department of Interior's Field Solicitor's Office in Albuquerque, NM. In 1968, he became the Field Solicitor for the Department's Minneapolis Field Office. In that capacity, Elmer worked with the Indian tribes of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Minneapolis Area Office. He became the Department's unofficial arbitrator during the 1970's traveling to South Dakota and other states to deal with intra-tribal conflicts. While he accomplished many legal goals for other Bureaus of the Department, the one of which he was most proud was helping to win the U.S. v. Michigan Indian Fishing Rights case in 1979. In 1983, Elmer became a Departmental Administrative Law Judge in Rapid City, South Dakota. In that capacity, he traveled to the Reservations in and, sometimes, outside of South Dakota to conduct Indian probate hearings and rule on who were the legal heirs of Indian trust lands.

After his retirement from federal service in 1993, Elmer and Karen moved to her home on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. He worked as City Attorney for the town of Gettysburg, SD, for four years and also had a small pro bono private practice. In 2005, he finally retired completely.

Elmer loved carpentry work and always had some building project going – from a child-sized doll house for his daughter, Monica, to building the Frank D. Ducheneaux Memorial Chapel, to remodeling a couple of houses, to building a gazebo. He once said, if he had it to do over, he might have been a carpenter. While he had a legal mind and a carpenter's hands, he had a generous heart and a poet's soul. Many people remember him for his kindnesses and affability. Over the years, he wrote many poems, but would never agree to publish them.

Elmer began to suffer from Alzheimer's in 2006, and, in 2011, he had to go to a nursing home. Even there, he was Mr. Affability according to the staff of the Oahe Manor in Gettysburg, SD. He died there on January 23, 2016 from complications of cancer. He was preceded in death by his father and mother; sister, Shirley; and brother, John.



## Elmer T. Nitzschke

1933 ~ 2016



Gettysburg, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)