

FRANCIS, DARREL RAY
December 1, 1939-January 4, 2008

A memorial service for Darrel Ray Francis, 68, will be conducted at 10:30 A.M., Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at the First Christian Church in Wheatland, Wyo., with Rev. Joel Dingman officiating.

He died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland after a courageous battle with cancer.

Darrel was born Dec. 1, 1939, in Millport, Kentucky, the son of Goldie Juanita Francis. He was reared and educated near Madisonville, Kentucky. Darrel was the captain of the basketball team at Nebo High School and he graduated in 1958. Shortly after graduating, Darrel married the love of his life, Patricia A. Frye on June 4, 1958, in Shawneetown, Illinois. They moved to Aurora, Illinois, in 1962 and Darrel worked as an ironworker Belding Engineering of West Chicago, Illinois; and was a member of Local Ironworkers Union #393. In 1977, they moved to Wheatland where Darrel worked on the construction of the Missouri Basin Power Plant. After that job was finished, he hired on with Missouri Basin and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker's #612. He continued working there until his retirement in April of 2002. While they lived in Aurora, he was president and founding board member of the East Aurora High School Hockey Club. He was a member of the United States Golf Association, a member of the Wheatland Golf Club where he had served on the Board of Directors, and a member of the Wheatland Country Club. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, basketball and golf. He loved the outdoors and fall was his favorite time of year. He also enjoyed reading and traveling to new places.

Survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Patricia of Wheatland; three sons, Terry and wife Janet of Aurora, Illinois, Tony and wife Debora of Wheatland, and Tim of Broomfield, Colorado; god daughter, Judy Bailey of Westminster, Colorado; foster son, Wayne Phillips of Ketikan, Alaska; seven siblings, Joyce Nielson and husband Bill, of Woodhaven, Michigan, Delores Ureste and husband, Ramiro of Allen Park, Michigan, Trudy Walker of Lima, Ohio, William Middleton and wife, Sandy of Warren, Michigan, Linda Johnson and husband, Jimmy and Willis Middleton and wife, Carmel, all of Madisonville, Kentucky; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren; special friend, Gayle Sehler of Ft. Collins, Colorado and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Goldie Francis Middleton, and his grandparents, Willis Glenn and Flossie Francis.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be his many friends and grandchildren, Daniel Francis, Christopher Francis, Trevor Francis, Kai Francis, Connor Francis, Hanna Francis, Michelle Francis, and Michael Middleton.