



Roger Erickstad

JUL 27, 1934 - JUN 9, 2025



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Roger Erickstad

JUL 27, 1934 - JUN 9, 2025

Selmer Roger Erickstad was born on July 27, 1934, near the town of Devils Lake in North Dakota to Josephine and Selmer Erickstad. He grew up on a homestead wheat farm in North Dakota and graduated from Devil's Lake High School in 1952. While growing up, Roger had a fascination with flying and decided that he would go into the U.S. Air Force after college. Roger entered North Dakota State University that fall and pursued a degree in mechanical engineering and was a member of the ROTC. During Roger's final year at NDSU he met Charlotte Louise of Fargo, North Dakota, and they were married June 15, 1956. Roger's next three years were a whirlwind of training and flying throughout the western US while he earned his wings. Roger attended Case Western University in the early 1960's and received a master's degree in statistics before heading to Washington D.C. where he was stationed at Bolling AFB. Roger spent five years in Washington, one of which was spent in USAF helicopter special operations out of Thailand during the Vietnam War. During his military service, Roger was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After returning to the United States in 1968, Roger decided that his calling was to Christian service in education and he resigned from the Air Force with the rank of Captain after 13 years. He was invited to join the mathematics faculty at LeTourneau College in the Fall of 1969. Roger taught mathematics and computer classes, but his focus was on statistics and quality control. He retired from teaching in 2012 after a teaching career of 42 years. Roger was LeTourneau's Faculty Athletic Representative for almost his entire tenure. He was inducted into LeTourneau's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

Roger served in multiple volunteer roles at Longview Regional Hospital for approximately twenty years and also was a spokesman for The Voice of the Martyrs for fifteen years.

Roger was a wonderful husband, fantastic father, tremendous teacher, and friend to all. He was a voracious reader, writer, poet, golfer, sports enthusiast, skier, and oil painter. He had collections of



Obituary

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hundreds of golf balls, hundreds of books plus dozens of notebooks full of his memoirs, writings and poetry. More importantly, Roger's number one book was the Bible and he spent the last 62 years reading, studying, believing and memorizing it. Roger was devoted to Charlotte for nearly 69 years and father to 5 children - Carrie, Bradley, Mark, Kirk and Joy. The couple have 14 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

Roger was received into glory on June 9, 2025 in Longview, Texas.

Funeral services will be held in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home on Saturday, June 14 at 2 pm with a visitation to take place one hour prior to the service. Military Honors and Burial for Mr. Erickstad will be held at Northwest Louisiana National Cemetery on Monday, June 30 at 1:30 pm.



Events

Roger Erickstad
JUL 27, 1934 - JUN 9, 2025

Visitation

Saturday, June 14, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

Chapel of Rader Funeral Home of Longview
1617 Judson Road, Longview TX 75601



Chapel Service - Longview

Saturday, June 14, 2025

2:00 PM CT

Chapel of Rader Funeral Home of Longview
1617 Judson Road, Longview TX 75601

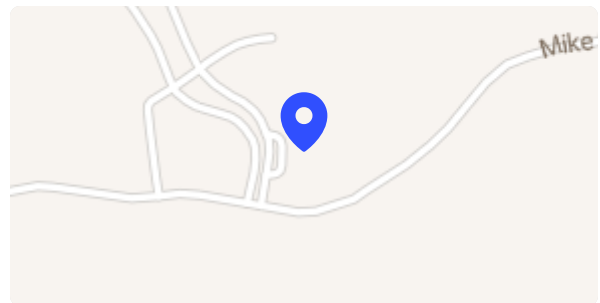


Burial Service

Monday, June 30, 2025

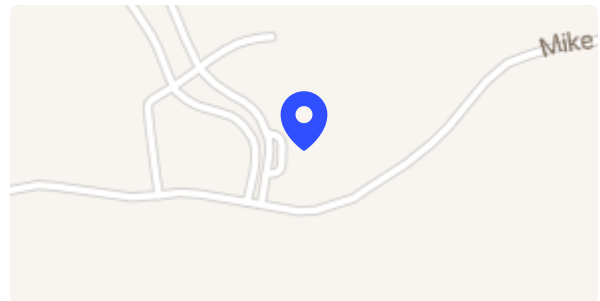
1:30 PM CT

Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery
7970 Mike Clark Rd., Keithville LA 71047



Cemetery Details

Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery
7970 Mike Clark Rd., Keithville LA 71047





Tribute Wall

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Rader Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



June 18 at 6:33 AM



Clark R Beach posted:

Such a great guy! I met him during my time at LeTourneau University. He was Faculty Athletic Representative for many, many years. We also spent time together at Copper Mountain, CO and played golf just about every day. He'll be missed by so many.

July 23 at 4:17 AM



Cynthia A Hudman sent a virtual gift in honor of Roger.



June 22 at 6:50 AM



Cynthia A Hudman lit a candle in honor of Roger.



June 22 at 6:49 AM

DA **Doug Arthofer** June 28 at 12:23 PM
Awesome teacher at Letourneau



Dan Rose posted:

As many others have described I had the privilege of first meeting Mr. Erikstad in the classroom as a student. He inspired me to pursue additional studies in statistics and then to teach at LeTourneau. There is no higher compliment than to follow in someone's footsteps. It is akin to Paul giving a charge to follow his example of imitating Christ. I count it a blessing to know Jesus more fully by having crossed paths with Roger Erikstad.

June 16 at 10:27 AM



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MB

Meagan Baird posted:

There aren't enough words to describe Grandpa Erickstad. He may not have been my grandpa by blood, but he was by heart. Some of my earliest memories are with him and Grandma—teaching me how to ski, trying to teach me to golf, and attempting to explain Fibonacci sequences. Our games of Rook, and eating lefsa and pickled herring, are some of my core memories. Thank you, Grandpa, for everything. You'll always be in my heart.

June 16 at 8:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Erickstad family.



June 13 at 6:38 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



June 13 at 6:38 PM

GH

Ginger (Anderson) Hoovler posted:

Roger was a long-time colleague and good friend of my Dad, Larry Anderson. There was also a bit of friendly competition between them... When Roger retired from LeTourneau, Dad said, "Well, I have to teach at least another 5 years so I can beat Roger!" And he did, but Roger got the last laugh by outliving Dad, who passed in October. In the past few years as Dad's health declined, Roger would often visit him, and it always lifted his spirits. I'm thanking God for the gift that Roger was to Dad and to our family. I can just imagine the two of them now in heaven swapping stories just like old times.

June 13 at 5:48 PM



Tribute Wall

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Lara Rose shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Mr. Erickstad initially influenced us by modeling genuine care for us as students—and convincing us to take every math elective he taught!! He succeeded! He visited us in Iowa. He called us about Job opportunities. He engaged us in thought-provoking conversations about history, doctrine, and even current politics! He kept in touch with us after graduation for nearly 40 years! He entertained us with riveting stories of his adventures. Most revealing, I was agent 003 and he was Sidekick. I willingly accepted his missions. Ohhhh, how I will miss him. His brilliance, his humor, his 90 years' worth of wisdom. Ohhhh, for heaven when we will once again be reunited.



June 11 at 9:53 AM



Mark Shepard posted:

Mr. Erickstad's trigonometry class was my first college class. It was on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the fall of 1982. I still recall the very first class, where Mr. Erickstad used the walking patterns on campus to explain the hypotenuse, which was the straight-line dirt trails that cut diagonally across a section of lawn, saving time and wear and tare on shoes by following the concrete or paved trail that only went one direction at a time ... the sides of a right triangle. I had never planned to go to college, but after four years of working as an electrician apprentice, I decided to give it a try. Mr. Erickstad was an encouragement factor in my switch from the technology program to engineering, even though he may have never known that. He saw potential in me early on, after I got a 108 on my first trig test. I have never forgotten him, Dr. Roden (calc 1), Dr. Baitie (physics 1 and calc 2, summer after my first year) or Miss Foote who helped me in my weak area - reading and writing (I have publish occasional columns since 2001, on life and liberty). I was very blessed by LeTourneau college ... even just the fact that they accepted me for college, but the professors, like Mr. Erickstad were incredibly giving and truly enriched my life then and from then on.

June 13 at 9:43 AM



Beverly A Brooks lit a candle in honor of Roger.



June 13 at 8:10 AM



Bert & Renee' Dixon posted:

Wonderful man & family. You all are in our prayers. Bert & Renee' Dixon

June 13 at 7:21 AM



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Bert & Renee' Dixon sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Erickstad family.



June 13 at 7:17 AM



Bryan Shapp posted:

Roger was my golfing buddy for a few years some 10 years ago. We loved to share opinions on current events and I marveled at his window in evaluating every single situation. This would frequently lead to Roger telling me a story from his past or may be some historical connection. Roger, unlike most really smart guys, would never make you feel ignorant or less than. I realized that I enjoyed his company more than I enjoyed the golf. We lost a very lovable guy, so Roger RIP. Bryan Chappuis

June 13 at 6:52 AM



Bryan Shapp June 13 at 6:53 AM

No window, wisdom



Michael Kessler posted:

I am grateful to have learned from Professor Erickstad at LeTourneau University in the 1990s. He was a great teacher and mentor to me. Here's a tweet with a photo from seven years ago, when I was back at LETU for the Academy of Engineering reception, and I had a chance to reconnect with him.<https://x.com/MikeKesslerPhD/status/982089747500814336>Michael R. Kessler, PhD, PEProfessor and the Louis M. Sardella Department Head | Materials Science & EngineeringJohns Hopkins University

June 13 at 6:48 AM



Dr. Stephen E. Lafleur (Class Of 72) posted:

Roger was such a stalwart at school and church. His dedication was always there. He will be missed.

June 13 at 5:08 AM



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CW

Curtis L Wesley posted:

Roger, you were always a blessing to me. During my first year teaching at LeTourneau University, you came by my office to give advice, books and to offer encouragement. I will miss your many stories at our annual get-togethers.

June 13 at 5:04 AM

RD

Roger Davis posted:

Professor Erickstadt was my absolute favorite professor at LeTourneau. I had him for several great classes and was his teacher assistant for a while. He was always cheerful and upbeat and made class fun. I had some great conversations with him in his office that I still remember over 40 years later. My condolences to his family.

June 12 at 2:32 PM

RC

Roger Carr posted:

Lost for words. My friend Roger, fellow faculty member, fellow military vitrain, one who stood by each other in battles against the satanic forces attempting to destroy churches. Few that be that has such a friend. We now look through a glass darkly but then face to face, and we shall be known as we are known by our king of kings. I know Roger looks into a face of a daughter and sees steady eyes looking back to him with great love. It is then that we just begin to know what God has wrought. A family that has blessed the Carr family many times over. Roger and Carol Carr

June 12 at 12:56 PM

GF

Golden Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



June 12 at 12:03 PM

GF

Golden Family sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Erickstad family.



June 12 at 12:03 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Erickstad family.



June 12 at 10:55 AM



Sharla Smith posted:

So sorry to hear of your loss. I saw the name and thought of Dr. Mark Erickstad who took such great care of my mother, Ina Gaddy, for years before her passing. I can see the wonderful heritage now, reading Mr. Erickstad's obituary. What an impressive man and servant to his country and Christ. Prayers for the family and loved ones in the days ahead. May God comfort you.

June 12 at 9:28 AM



Grateful Nation posted:

In memory of and gratitude for your honorable military service during the Vietnam War. May God bless you and welcome you home.

June 12 at 9:12 AM



Kirk, Bruce, And Bonnie Partin sent a Sacred Garden Spray to the Erickstad family.



June 12 at 8:28 AM



Kim posted:

So sad to hear this. I'm grateful for every old standard he hummed in class and the wisdom he imparted. Most grateful for the heart for God and servant life he demonstrated.. and the truth that we'll meet again one day. Praying for his family as they grieve.

June 11 at 5:15 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



June 11 at 5:01 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Erickstad family.



June 11 at 5:01 PM



Cheryl Roller posted:

Roger was our mother's younger brother. He lived with our family for his junior and senior years of high school in the "big city" of Devils Lake, ND (population 6000, in contrast to the Erickstad's farming community of Starkweather, population maybe 300). In recent years we nieces (nee Pat and Cheryl Senecal) enjoyed friendship with our uncle. Pat loved making her annual batch of rhubarb jam for Uncle Roger's birthday. And one summer Roger was game for a camping trip in a beautiful deep canyon in southern Montana with Cheryl and her husband Bill Roller. Uncle Roger will truly be missed.

June 11 at 4:21 PM



Steve Armstrong posted:

Roger was a collogue for more than 30 years in the math department at LeTourneau. I always enjoyed talking with him and sharing ideas. It was a privilege to teach with him all those years.

June 11 at 4:19 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Erickstad family.



June 11 at 4:02 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



June 11 at 4:02 PM



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TM

Tim Mcguire posted:

Roger was not only my faculty advisor; he became a professional and spiritual mentor to me. I dedicated my doctoral dissertation on literate scientific programming environments to him, and the discussions I had with him greatly influenced the way I teach my adult Bible studies. He and Charlotte took my wife Bonnie under their wing early in our marriage and adopted my children as honorary grandchildren.

June 11 at 2:49 PM

WM

Wayne And Margaret Musslewhite posted:

Dear Couple and Family of many years. Now our neighbors and because of Waynes age and health don't get to visit like we wish we could! Prayers and love to all of you. Wayne did your air conditioning many years and I did a wedding for your precious daughter. So sweet the ones moving in with you two to help and all your family helping! You twos devotion to volunteer work - your church was so appreciated by many. !

June 11 at 10:25 AM

JL

Jill Littlejohn posted:

We are so sorry to learn of the passing of Mr. Erickstad. What a kind man. We love you and you are in our prayers. Mark and Jill Littlejohn

June 11 at 9:53 AM



Media

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Rader Funeral Home shared a Video.

June 18 at 6:33 AM





Media

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Lara Rose shared 5 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 13 at 5:23 PM





Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Roger by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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