



Richard A. Bruening, age 73, of Holdrege, formerly of Wilsonville, Nebraska passed away Monday, January 23, 2017 at Wilsonville. He was born on September 19, 1943 in Kanorado, Kansas to Bernard & Frances (Harris) Bruening.

He attended school in Wilsonville, Nebraska and graduated from Wilsonville High School with the class of 1961. He attended college in Lincoln, Nebraska and Amarillo, Texas to receive an associate's degree in Fire Science. He also had a private pilot's license, A&P license, plus numerous schooling he received in the service

On September 15, 1963, he married Dorothy Mustin of Indianola, Nebraska and to this union 2 children were born, Rick and Tawn. Richard joined the Air Force in 1963. He spent the last year in Vietnam. When he returned home, he worked at Beech Craft in Wichita, Kansas for 6 months but decided the graveyard shift was not for him, so he went to Sky Harbor at Eppley Air Field in Omaha, Nebraska. He worked there for around 6 years, and then worked as a service manager for a Chevy/Buick garage in St. Paul, NE. After working there for 2 years he received a letter from the government offering him a full time civil service job, if he would join the Air Guard. He spent a total of 26 years in the military and 22 years in the Civil Service. During that time, he was a crew chief in the Lincoln Guard on the RF4C plane. The rest of the time, was a flight chief in the Colorado Guard over the A-7's and F-16's. Then also in the Colorado Guard, he was a flight engineer on the C-131. He retired in 1993 when he turned 50. He wanted to do his "bucket list", which included farming for 10 years and restoration of an airplane, of which he did both. Richard and his pilot friend, Col. Buckingham "Buck" bought a Cessna 182 and restored it from top to bottom. After the restoration was complete it looked like it had come right off of the assembly line. Before the Cessna, he and another pilot friend owned a Cherokee 6. Airplanes and flying were his passion. He knew his airplanes and what made them fly. He never opened a book to study when he received his pilot's license. He told Dorothy, "I don't need to...I know all about working on and flying an airplane!", and he was right! He passed the test with flying colors. He had a lifetime membership with the VFW, Legion, and Elks. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, bowling, playing cards, and mechanic work. He will be greatly missed as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frances and Bernard; His brother, Gary; and an infant Granddaughter, Ashley Renee.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; Son, Rick Bruening of Longmont Colorado; daughter, Tawn and husband Jim Stringfellow of Argyle, Texas; four Granddaughters, Lindsey, MacKenzie, Kaylee Bruening, and Genesse Stringfellow; one Grandson Gregory Stringfellow; two Brothers Jim Bruening and wife Sharon of Minden, Nebraska, and Larry Bruening and wife, Jeannie of Arvada Colorado.

Condolences or personal reflections may be left at wenburgfuneralhome.com

Visitation with the family present will be Friday, January 27, 2017, from 5 PM to 7 PM at Wenburg Funeral Home in Beaver City, Nebraska. Funeral Services will be Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 10:30 AM at Baptist-Christian Church in Wilsonville, Nebraska with Pastor Keith Theobald officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery at Beaver City, Nebraska. Memorials are suggested to the Baptist-Christian Church in Wilsonville or Wilsonville Volunteer Fire Department. Wenburg Funeral Home, of Beaver City, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.