



On Saturday, August 5, 2023, Gregg Stephen Hanna – husband, father of two, grandfather of two, brother, uncle – passed away at age seventy-two. He is survived by his loving wife, Janet (Ripp) residing in Burwell, NE; daughter and son-in-law Kristi and Mark Schwesinger and grandchildren Ava and Olin (Seattle, WA); son Nick Hanna and partner Anna Hendricksen (Lincoln, NE); brother and sister-in-law Mike and Arzanna Hanna (Palisade, CO); morning drive co-pilot, Luna; and many siblings-in-law, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn (“Friday”) and Bethyne (Hochreiter) Hanna, brother Dave, sister Susie, and niece Kelly.

Born in Ravenna, NE, Gregg graduated from Ravenna High School, class of 1969. A standout member of the “Unbeaten, Untied, and Unscored Upon” Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame 1968 Class B Ravenna High School football team, Gregg had a passion for sports that

extended from his youth into adulthood. For many years, he coached boys’ baseball teams in the Burwell area from pee wees up to Legion ball. He could be found enthusiastically cheering on the Huskers at Memorial Stadium each fall for many years.

Gregg and Janet were high school sweethearts and married in August 1973, just months before he graduated from Kearney State College with a degree in Industrial Arts and Coaching. They spent several years of their early married life in St. Paul, NE, where Gregg played softball, was active in the Jaycees, and worked for Scarborough Construction. After several years, the family, which now included his two treasured children, Kristi and Nick, moved to Burwell, NE, and Gregg began a career as a self-employed finish carpenter.

Gregg worked diligently to clear their beautiful property by the river and build a home for his family. It quickly became and remains a favorite spot for family and friends to enjoy company, views, wildlife, and water recreation. Their home was always open to anyone that knew him. Gregg was a gracious host, with tubes filled ready to float the river, always ensuring everyone had a good time. He was a warm and caring person showing unending affection for the people he knew and loved. His grandchildren brought an unwavering light into his life, and plenty of projects to keep them entertained. He also enjoyed monitoring the arrival and departure each spring and fall of the thousands of bats that called Gregg’s bat houses home, as well as the varied woodpeckers, herons, and geese that visited. After retirement, Gregg’s generosity of spirit meant that he would continue to take on small projects for friends and family up until a heart attack took him suddenly. Gregg and Janet had just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the day before his passing.

A celebration of Gregg’s life will be held down at the river at the Hanna home in Burwell; all who knew and loved him are welcome (bring your suit and towel!). A private family burial will be held at Saint Mary’s Cemetery in Prairie Center, NE. In lieu of flowers or cards, the family asks that those who are able honor Gregg by donating to the Calamus Area Community Fund or the Burwell Legion Post 298, for which Gregg intended to build a trophy case.