



Melvin "Duane" King

Melvin "Duane" King, 88 of Proctor, MN passed away on Friday October 9, 2015 surrounded by his family, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Duane was born to Ideal Porter and Daniel King, of Nett Lake in 1927. He was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He and his siblings grew up learning how to harvest wild rice along with hand parching and the manufacturing processes on the reservation, forming King Bros. Wild Rice Processing Plant, with his father and siblings. He graduated from Orr High School where he was very active in sports, with basketball and baseball being his favorites. He enlisted and proudly served in the US Navy. He attended Haskell University, Lawrence, KS. He met and married Donna Smith and they had four children. He worked for Montgomery Wards as a Service Manager in Hibbing, Duluth and Janesville, WI until his retirement. He then became an entrepreneur with his company Northern Natural Industries, developing Firelite Grills which he himself marketed all over the US, with grills installed in many Western State and Federal campgrounds. Duane loved to hunt, fish, rice as well as spending time with his family. He was able to travel to several states which he greatly enjoyed. Duane is survived by his children, Patti Svaleson, Cloquet MN, Les (Terri) King, Albuquerque NM, Gayle King, Chisholm MN, Kathy (Dave) Skurla, Chisholm MN.; Brother, Bill King, Orr MN, Niece, Kay (Allan) Zika of Orr; blessed grandchildren, Kari Genett, Marshfield WI, Amy (Brian) Rulifson, Aurora MN, Lindsay (Robb) King-Cooney, Columbia Heights MN, Alex (Alicia) King, Burnsville MN, Sean Schoeben, Kehei HI, Elizabeth (Darren) Hatfield, Chisholm MN, Zackary and Joshua Skurla, Chisholm MN; Great Grandchildren, Sydney and Skylar Genett, Dominic and Olivia Rulifson, Jameson and Cashton King, arriving soon Maxwell Hatfield. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by 3 brothers-, Donald, Herbert and, Norman King and 3 sisters-Carol King, Elaine King and Doris O'Connell.

**SERVICES:** A celebration of life service will be held at 1:00 PM Thursday, October 15th, at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Rev. Arthur Dale will be the officiant. There will be a visiting time with the family from noon until the hour of service at the funeral home. Honorary pallbearers will be: Kari Genett, Amy Rulifson, Lindsay King-Cooney, Alex King, Sean Schoeben, Elizabeth Hatfield, Zack and Josh Skurla. Military honors will be accorded by the combined honor guards of Bois Forte, Orr American Legion and the Cook Veterans of Foreign Wars. A reception in Duane's honor will follow at the Cook VFW. Interment will be in the Nett Lake Cemetery. To sign the online guest book, or to leave a condolence to the family, go to: [www.mlakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.mlakerfuneralhome.com)

