

# In Memoriam

## M. Bruce Alexander



M. Bruce Alexander, age 76, of Loomis, SD died Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at his home. Funeral services were at 11:00 AM Monday, December 7, 2015 at the Will Funeral Chapel with burial at a later date at Servicemen's Memorial Cemetery. Visitation was from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Sunday, December 6, 2015 at the Will Funeral Chapel.

M. Bruce Alexander, son of Maxwell and Eleanor (Simmington) Alexander, was born June 28, 1939 in Camden, NJ. He grew up in Camden and received his schooling there, graduating from high school in 1957. Bruce served in the US Navy from 1958 to 1962 on the USS Des Moines. After he was honorably discharged, Bruce owned and operated a gas station near Camden, NJ and later worked at a manufacturing factory in Philadelphia, PA. He then worked in the restaurant and beverage industry in New Jersey, while working there Bruce met his future wife.

Bruce was united in marriage with Vonda Stoebner on March 25, 1972 in Vineland, NJ. The couple moved to South Dakota in 1976. In Mitchell, he was employed at the Holiday Inn as the food and beverage manager. Bruce later was employed by Rhinehart Foods, Maxwell Supply, managed the First Edition Restaurant in Sioux Falls and then managed the Moose Lodge in Mitchell. In the early 1990's he worked at Bauer Dental in Mitchell where he honed his carving skills. In 1992, Bruce began wood carving full time. He was a lifetime artist and became a self-employed wood carver. He created wildlife carving for clients all over the United States. Bruce specialized in fireplace mantels and wood panels for doors and desks.

He served on the Davison Rural Water Board since its inception in 1983 until the summer of 2015 when his health forced him to resign his position. During his tenure, he served as Chairman of the Board from May 1993 until December 2014. Bruce also represented Davison rural Water on the SD Rural Water Association Board for many years and also the state finance committee.

Bruce enjoyed restoring Corvairs and was a member of the Nationwide Corvair Forum [Virtual Vairs – ed], and Corvair Minnesota [ed].

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Vonda Alexander, Loomis, SD; a son, Daniel (Mary) Alexander, Mitchell, SD; a step son, Mike Duffy, Mitchell, SD; a daughter, Chrissy Pierson, Woodside, DE; four grandchildren, Emily and Michael Duffy, Lauren and Maxwell Alexander; three great grandchildren, Alex, Piper and Scarlett; three sisters-in-laws, Rochelle Edwards, Cheyenne, WY, Lila (Fred) Metler, Rapid City, SD, Cheryl (Frank) Lutjens, Ethan, SD; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a step son, Edward Duffy; a sister, Peggy Courtney; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Kenny and Marlys Stoebner; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Delvis and Jerry Fenner and a brother-in-law, George Edwards.

A note from Bryan Blackwell via Virtual Vairs that he received from Bruce's son Dan Alexander:

"Bryan,

My dad loved his Corvairs. In the past few years he's had five different models, 3 at the same time - 2 convertibles, a rampside, & 2 coupes. Not too many years ago when I was visiting w/ my dad, he kept talking about looking at Corvairs online. He had told me so many stories about having dozens of Corvairs before I was born & when I was really little. He so badly wanted one again, so I said what do you have to lose. My dad had been a very successful wildlife artist ([customwoodcarving.com](http://customwoodcarving.com)) for years & could easily afford this "hobby". So, not more than a week later my dad called & said he had something to show me. He had bought a 1964 convertible on E-bay. After that he was knee deep in his new re-found hobby."