Roland E. Gross



Roland E. Gross, 65, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., formerly of Newburg, died suddenly Thursday, June 24, 2004, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

A celebration service was held Thursday, July 1, at Grinnell Christian Church with John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiating. Kendahl and Jonathan Gross gave scripture readings and personal remarks. Kathi Gross accompanied on the piano by Barbara Chitwood sang "Come to Jesus." Casket bearers were Kendahl, Jonathan, Ronald and David Gross, Rick Groves and John Reid. Honorary bearers were Paul Grove and James Boll. Graveside rites were conducted by the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit at Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Christian Jew Foundation Ministries, PO Box 345, San Antonio Texas 78292-0345.

An identical twin, he was born Nov. 22, 1938, the son of Clarence and Amy Lillian Gross who farmed near Newburg. He graduated from Newburg High School, then attended American Technical School in Des Moines and Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. He served with the United States Army from Nov. 17, 1958, to Feb. 20, 1962, receiving an honorable discharge. He was married on Dec. 23, 1960, in Grinnell to Effie Alean Groves while home on leave. He spent most of his life in the Des Moines area where he worked as an electrician and then as an electrical contractor in his own business, Gross Electric Company. He and his family also worked for a time as missionaries for the late evangelist Lester Roloff in Zapata, Texas. The Grosses moved to Arizona in 1990 where he continued his business in Fountain Hills.

He served as an elder in his church and taught Sunday School for many years. In Arizona he participated actively in a Messianic ministry. In 2003, fulfilling a lifetime desire, he visited the Holy Land. For the past year, he enjoyed teaching a weekly "Jewish Roots of Christianity" class for his community.

A recent highlight of his life was meeting President George W. Bush at the Iowa State Fair in 2002.

He is survived by his wife Effie of Fountain Hills; one daughter, Maynita Boll, and two sons, Kendahl Gross and Jonathan Gross, all of Fountain Hills; eight grandchildren; his twin brother, Ronald Gross of Pella and a younger brother, David Gross of Sanford, N.C. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Richard Gross and one sister, Glorianne Perry.

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Roland Gross, 65, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., formerly of Newburg, died Thursday, June 24, 2004, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, July 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Grinnell Christian Church with burial at

Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Christian Jew Foundation Ministries, PO Box 345, San Antonio, Texas 78292-0345.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home beginning at 12 noon Wednesday and family members will be present from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.