Roger John Schlagbaum, 71, of Monte Vista, Colo., died Saturday at 4:50 p.m. MST from lung cancer and congestive heart failure.

He was born Oct. 30, 1941, in Otoville to Anthony A. “Tony” and Gertrude C. (Bendele) Schlagbaum, who preceded him in death.

On Sept, 11, 1968, he married Marina Bennett of Antwerp, who survives in Monte Vista.

Roger was raised on the family farm and graduated from Ottoville High School in May 1959. He joined the United States Navy in October 1959 and served in the submarine corps on the USS Bluegill stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the “Bluegill” patrolled the frigid Northern Pacific waters off the coast of Russia. He left the Navy in early 1964 after serving his 4 year hitch.

After they married, Roger and Marian resided first in Fort Wayne and then settled in Durango, Colo., in 1975 after spending nearly two years traveling the US in their motorhome. In Colorado, both Roger and Marian were licensed electrical contractors and in 1990, he became a state electrical inspector for the State of Colorado, first residing in Ft. Morgan and later Monte Vista. He retired in 2004 and spent his retirement in Monte Vista as a woodworking artist creating specialized wooden jewelry and ornamental boxes. Roger was also very active in and helped organize the Monte Arts Council who are planning to open the city’s first Art Center.

Suvivors also include a sister, Arlene M. (James) Herman of Kettering; four younger brothers,

Donald A. (Dee Dee) Schlagbaum and Gary J. (Janice) Schlagbaum and Russell U. Schlagbaum of Ottoville and Tim A. (Cheryl) Schlagbaum of Safety Harbor, Fla.; and 14 nieces and 12 nephews.

Cremation services were carried out at Rogers Family Mortuary of Alamosa, Colo. Other arrangements are pending. The family requests no flowers and if desired, donations can be made to The Monte Arts Council of Monte Vista Colorado.