



Driving

By Andy Grande

I live a life most only dream of. You see, I get to drive truck every day. I haul heavy loads over all kinds of roads; did I mention I even get paid?

I like to start early in the morning, and try to get finished by dark. Sometimes I meet myself going it seems,

and sometimes the going gets hard. I get to travel over ice and snow, and sometimes through rain and sleet. But like the mailman's motto, I too have appointments to keep. Then there are days when the sun is shining, and everything seems to go swell. I get to meet lots of new people and see interesting sites as well. I look forward to my windshield time as I cover each new mile. And I contemplate life's little pleasures, as I go down the road with a smile. Oh, I could have had lots of other jobs, but what a life it has been. The best part is waking up each morning and getting to do it all over again.



In Loving Memory of

Joe Ressler

"Well done, good & faithful servant."

Joseph “Joe” Ressler, 92, a lifelong Mandan resident, died May 17, 2023, at Sanford ICU with his wife, Colleen, holding his hand. He was the fifth of twelve children to Nick and Monica (Eckroth) Ressler. Born on January 24, 1931, he was called Joe, Uncle Joe, Papa Joe, Snoopy, and Don Entzel’s angel throughout his rich life. Joe attended St. Joseph’s grade school where he was drawn more to mechanics than academics. Raised with the Ressler work ethic, he was accustomed to hard work, early hours, and fixing things. As a young boy, he worked for Joe Wetzstein tending horses in the summer for a dollar a week. He also worked for Love’s Dairy where he would rise at 3 a.m. to round up cattle and begin milking in the early hours. His wages were \$7.00 a week, which were needed at home with such a big family. He was allowed to keep a dollar which he used for a 12-cent movie and a milkshake at Bone’s Ice Cream Parlor. Desiring to further his abilities as a mechanic, Joe joined the Air Force a week before his 16th birthday. His parents had to sign for him. In the Air Force for three years, he worked as a mechanic and military policeman. His most memorable time was a sixteen-month stint in Guam. After being honorably discharged, he began employment where he met his first wife of 43 years, Isabella Graner. Following their marriage, Joe drove for Hauk Transport. Joe and Isabella became parents when Virginia Ann was born on February 29, 1956. In June, 1959, Joe received Driver of the Month Award from the ND Motor Carriers Association. Harold Zimmerman described him as “conscientious, clean, neat, and good at getting along with customers. He has a commendable record of courtesy and assistance to highway motorists.” Shortly after this, Joe’s skills were needed at Barney’s Standard where he worked until 1970. That year his dream of becoming an over-the-road trucker was realized. He picked up his brand-new Kenworth eighteen-wheeler in Seattle. Joe logged the miles while Isabella kept the books. He drove that semi across thirteen states until he “retired” in 1992 due to Isabella’s failing health. That year he received the Driver of the Year Award from the ND Safety Council for his outstanding record of driving 3.5 million accident-free miles. Known for his enterprising spirit, Joe had his beloved Kenworth converted back to a dump truck in which he hauled sand, gravel, recycled asphalt, and coal until he retired in the fall of 2017, at the age of 86. It was during Isabella’s need for care at St. Vincent’s Care Center that he first met Sister Colleen Mickelsen in pastoral care there. Near her death in June of 1996, Isabella said, “You and Joe would be so happy together.” Her wish came true two years later when Joe and Colleen were married in July. Joe was known as a kind, faith-filled man who enjoyed life. He looked forward to yearly summer trips with Colleen where they camped with friends, Lary and Sue Poulton. He enjoyed Norsk Hostfest in Minot each fall.

Blessed to have shared in his life is his loving wife of 24 years, Colleen, Mandan; his daughter, Ginny (Ken) Braunagel, Camas, WA; brothers, Clarence and Nick (Nadine); sisters, Kathleen John and Adeline Castleberry; sisters-in-law, Cheryl Ressler, Paulette Ressler, Sharon (Steve) Dalen, and Colette (Greg) Furness; brother-in-law, Tony (Jari) Mickelsen; along with many nieces, nephews, and friends. Joe was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Isabella; his parents; brothers, Ed (Violet), Christ (Agnes), Paul, and John who died just three days before Joe; sisters, Ida (Jack) Bohl, Dorothy (Frank) Hellman, and infant Mary Ann; in-laws, Katherine Graner, Barney (Isabelle) Graner, Raymond (Evelyn) Graner, Lawrence (Colleen) Mickelsen, Dick John, and Wendel Castleberry; and special friend, Patrick Boehm.

Joe’s last six months were spent at Sunset Drive Care Center where he received compassionate care from dedicated caregivers, whom he loved and felt at home with. A special thank you to them and so many family and friends, especially Karen Smith, who visited him while there along the way, blessing his way all the way home. His barber, Mike, from Silver Clipper, assisted him into the shop each time he had his hair cut and was so kind when Joe was compromised. A special thanks to the excellent care he received so often when he was a patient at Sanford, especially Dr. Sean Russell who faithfully checked up on him.

Rosary & Parish Vigil Sunday, May 21, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Christ the King Catholic Church | Mandan
Fr. Fred Harvey

Vigil Presider

Funeral Liturgy Monday, May 22, 2023 | 11:00 AM
Christ the King Catholic Church | Mandan
Fr. Fred Harvey

Celebrant

Concelebrants Abbot Daniel Maloney, O.S.B | Fr. John Paul Gardner

Assistant Deacon Bob Nutsch

Musicians Alice Gerhardt | Vance Krebs

Casketbearers Bill Klesalek | Jim Boehm | Don Entzel | Lary Poulton
Delmer Schlenker | Tim Fleck | Dan Ressler | Alton Ressler | Ron Isaak

Lectors Sharon Dalen | Tony Mickelsen

Prelude Music | Ave Maria |

Liturgy of the Word

Processional | On Eagle’s Wings |

Old Testament Reading Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

Response Psalm 27
| *I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.* |

New Testament Reading Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel Reading John 14:1-6

Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song | Like A Shepherd |

Presentation of Gifts Bob, Karen, Destiny, & Hope Smith

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Songs | Eye Has Not Seen |

Communion Meditation | Only A Shadow |

Final Commendation | Song of Farewell |

Closing Song | How Great Thou Art |

Committal Service North Dakota Veterans Cemetery | 2 PM



**Military Honors by Mandan American Legion
led by Joe’s brother, Nick Ressler**

The family invites you for lunch & fellowship at the Agnes Larkin Parish Life Center immediately following the funeral service.

*Memorials are preferred to Christ the King Montessori School
or the ND Veterans Cemetery in Joe’s memory.*