

## CLOSE THE GATE

For this one farmer the worries are over,  
lie down and rest your head.

Your time has been and struggles enough,  
put the tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard,  
but your faith in God transcended,

Put away your tools and sleep in peace.

The fences have all been mended.

You raised a fine family, worked the land well  
and always followed the Son,

Hang up your shovel inside of the barn;  
your work here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your journey through life,  
often a jagged and stony way.

The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded,  
and here now is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;  
the stories flow like fine wine,

Wash off your work boots in the puddle  
left by blessed rain one final time.

You always believed that the good Lord would provide,  
and He always had somehow,

Take off your gloves and put them down,  
no more sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;  
no more must you wait.

Your legacy lives on, your love of the land,  
and we will close the gate.

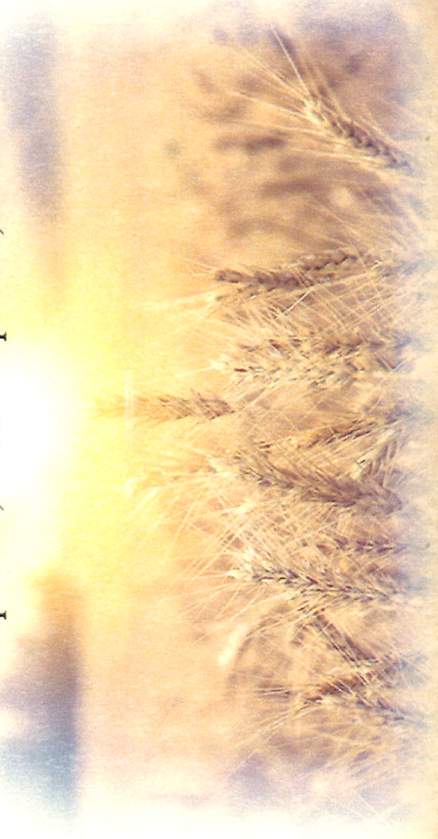


## In Loving Memory



## Walter Ratchenski

April 13, 1932 ~ April 24, 2023



# FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, April 29, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.  
United Lutheran Church  
Cavalier, North Dakota

After years of hard work, Walter and Ruth decided to become "snowbirds" and bought a place in Mesa, AZ in the early '90s. This began the annual rite of getting to AZ in time for the New Year's Eve dance and returning to ND at the end of March or Easter, whichever came sooner. Walt loved being able to play shuffleboard, ride bike and take walks in warm weather while everyone back home was shoveling snow. He and Ruth made many new friends, but also connected with family and friends from back home with picnics, playing cards and dancing.

Walter is survived by his wife Ruth; children: Wayne (Lorna); Dale (Sheryl); Mark (Becky); Barbara; and Jon (Barb); grandchildren: Tara (Chad) Kendall, Bryan (JoEllyn) Ratchenski, Luke (Raichi) Ratchenski, Tess (Alec) Johnson, Lily (Alex) Flage, Matt (Kait) Ratchenski, Andy (Katelyn) Moon, Katie Moon, Ellie Moon, Adam Ratchenski and Isaac Ratchenski; great-grandchildren: Rhun, Cyrus, Piper, James and Cade Kendall; Colton and Alyx Ratchenski; Emma, Eli and Evie Ratchenski; Lauren, Olivia and Emerson Flage; and Ramsey Ratchenski; and siblings: Carrie Anderson and Herman Ratchenski.

He was preceded in death by his parents, August and Emma Ratchenski; siblings: Arthur (Vi) Ratchenski and Florence (Ray) Gustafson.

Walter Ratchenski, 91, of Cavalier, ND, passed away Monday, April 24, 2023, at Unity Medical Center, Grafton, ND.

Walter Ratchenski was born on April 13, 1932 on the family farm near Hamilton, ND to August and Emma (Bobert) Ratchenski. He attended school in Hamilton and graduated in 1950. After high school, he continued farming with his family and enjoyed all the social activities the county had to offer, especially dances. Walter married Ruth Thompson from Grafton, ND on November 14, 1954. They lived in the Hamilton area for a few years before moving into the family farm's house, where they would live and raise a family for 23 years before moving to a new home on the same farmstead in 1981. They lived there until moving into town in 2007.

Walter's farm started small and continued to grow and expand under his careful management. He started growing wheat and barley, added sugar beets in 1965, and then beans in 1998. Walter's philosophy was to invest in land, maintain machinery so it would last, and have his wife and children as helpers. He was proud to have all four sons follow in his footsteps and go into the family business of farming. He liked taking a Sunday afternoon drive with everyone in the car to check on the fields.

While livestock wasn't Walter's focus on the farm, he was practical and kept a few head of cattle and a milk cow for several years. He also helped his older sons raise Chester White pigs during their 4-H days.

Walter was a man of faith. Throughout his life, he attended United Lutheran Church and especially enjoyed singing hymns during worship.

## CLERGY

Rev. Beth Peterson

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"How Great Thou Art"

"Because He Lives"

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Suzanne Ashpole, Accompanist

## CASKET BEARERS

Bryan Ratchenski Luke Ratchenski

Matt Ratchenski Andy Moon

Adam Ratchenski Isaac Ratchenski

## INTERMENT

Cavalier Cemetery

Cavalier, North Dakota

