



"OH THE LAST GOODBYE'S  
THE HARDEST ONE TO SAY,  
AND THIS IS WHERE THE  
COWBOY RIDES AWAY."

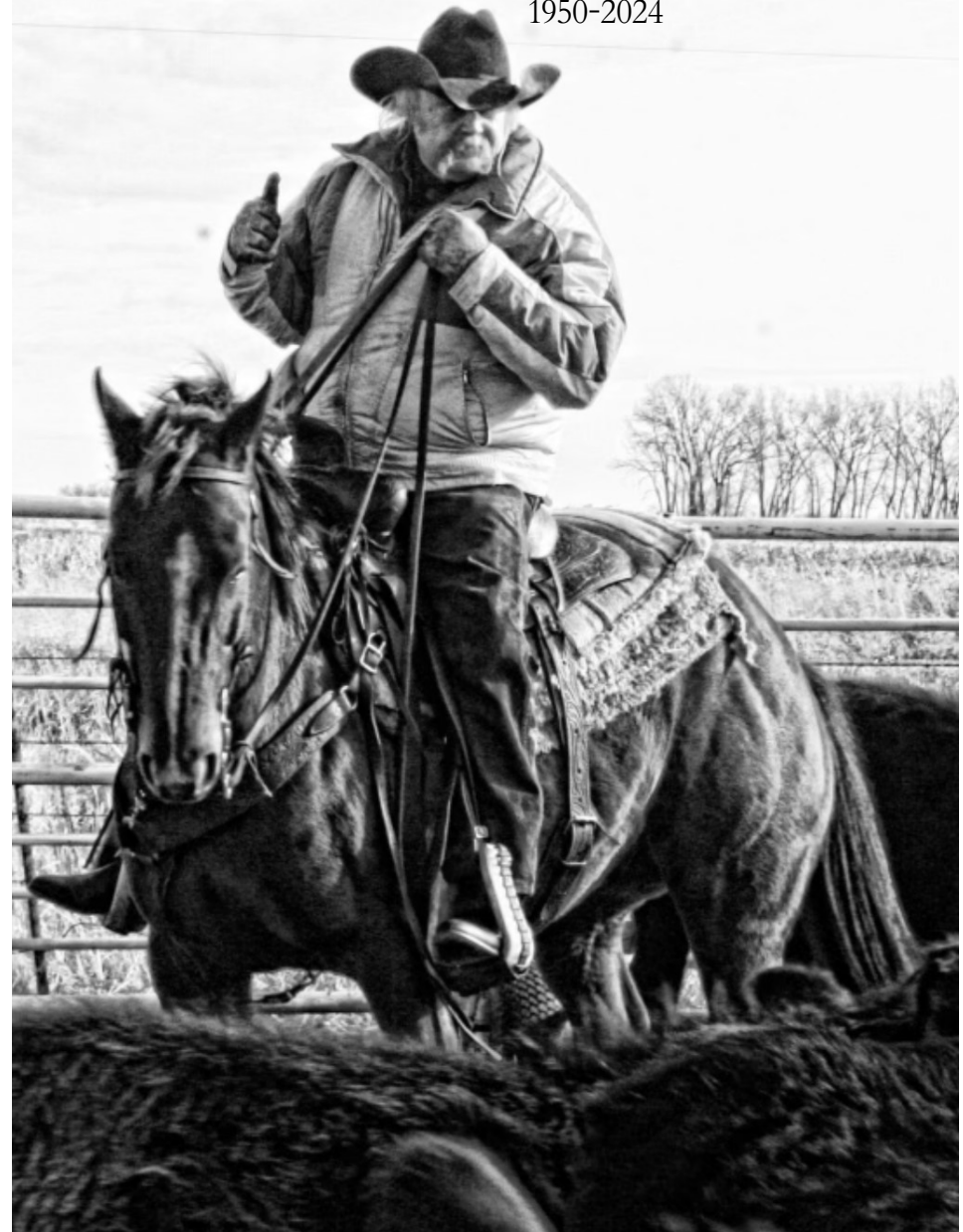
- George Strait



IN LOVING MEMORY

# RONALD "RINK" MAHLUM

1950-2024





**Ronald "Rink" Mahlum**, 74, passed away October 31, 2024, at the North Dakota Veteran's Home in Lisbon.

Ronald "Rink" Mahlum the son of Maynard "Whitie" and Betty "Patsy" (Roberg) Mahlum was born August 23, 1950, in Kenmare, ND. He graduated from Kenmare High School in 1969 and enlisted in the US Army, serving during the Vietnam War from May 13, 1970, until December 22, 1971, when he was honorably discharged.

After returning home, he was likely found on horseback working the ranches of North Dakota, Montana, and New Mexico. The "cowboy life" was his calling. During his time at the Veterans Home, he also acquired the nickname "Cowboy." Sitting tall in the saddle, his skills were top notch. He once said, "Girl, just get on the damn horse. You're burning daylight."

On March 26, 1979, Rink married Linda Thompson and they were blessed with two children, Rhonda and Tyler.

### ***Cowboy Is His Name***

*There's a hundred years of history  
and a hundred before that  
All gathered in the thinkin'  
Goin' on beneath this hat.*

*The cold flame burns within him  
'Til his skin's as cold as ice  
And the dues he paid to get here  
Are worth every sacrifice.*

*All the miles spend sleepy drivin'  
All the money down the drain,  
All the 'if I's' and 'nearly's,'  
All the bandages and pain,*

*All the female tears left dryin',  
All the fever and the fight  
Are just a small down payment  
On the ride he makes tonight.*

*It's guts and love and glory,  
One mortal's chance at fame.  
His legacy is rodeo  
And cowboy is his name.*

*Written by Baxter Black  
Poem from the movie 8 Seconds*

While we have lost our Dad, many have lost a brother and friend. With his sarcastic humor and witty timing, to some he may have been a glorious pain in the rear, which I am sure is a small select few. All the miles spent, all the tears and laughs, rowdy boys, and dirty arena floors are just few of the things we hold dear today and always.

Rink leaves behind his daughter, Rhonda (Jim) Schwartzbauer of Mandan, ND; son, Tyler Mahlum of Kenmare, ND; grandchildren, Tate, Tucker, Riley, and Hayes Schwartzbauer; brother, Mark Mahlum of Bismarck, ND; as well as his "adopted brothers", the Hanson family, Herm (Paula), Greg (Tami), Mike, and Shannon (Jennifer); and their families; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Rink was preceded in death by his parents; his stepdad, Roland Delong; and "adopted parents", Bob and Lila Hanson.

## *I Know You'll Miss This Man*

By Baxter Black

The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand  
"Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you'll miss this man.  
But it's true what you've been hearing. Heaven is a real place.  
That's no small consolation, You should use that fact to face.

The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones  
And draw on it to ease your pain, For he is not alone.  
You see, all his friends are up here and all his loved ones, too,  
'Cause it wouldn't be a heaven without each one of you.

And heaven for a Cowboy is just what you might expect,  
It's horses that need tunin' up and heifers that need checked.  
It's long rides with a purpose and a code that lights the way  
And a satisfying reason to get up every day.

It's the ranch he's always dreamed of and never knew he'd find.  
And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind.  
Him, leanin' in the saddle with his ol' hat on his head,  
Contentment set upon his face like blankets on a bed.  
The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat.  
The bit chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet.  
And you somehow get the feelin' that he's sittin' on a throne  
A'gazin out on paradise just like it was his own.

I can promise you he's happy, though I know you can't pretend  
You're glade he made the journey, It's too hard to comprehend.  
The earthly way you look at things can never satisfy  
Your lack of understanding for the answer to the 'Why?'

So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest,  
I only take the top hands 'cause my crew's the very best.  
And I know it might seem selfish to friends and next of kin  
But I needed on more Cowboy and Buster fit right in."