

## The Hero I Call My Grandpa

My grandfather lived through almost 9 decades and has overcome a lot of difficulties in his life. Having dropped out of school at 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help his family and then enlisting in the navy, he has managed to marry the love of his life and raise 11 children. He inspires me to work my hardest every day.

As a young boy he had to make a very crucial decision in his life. He had to choose whether to stay in school or quit and help his unfortunate family struggling to farm in the dust bowl. Him being such a selfless man, he quit school to help his family and raise the income. My grandpa showed me that family comes first no matter what the consequences are.

After working on the farm for many years, he thought it was time for change in his life. At 17 years old, he enlisted in the Navy, and fought for our country. He served in World War II and experienced many hardships. During the war, he was the cook on a ship that got attacked by the Japanese. While serving he caught a very infectious skin disease called gangrene. It got out of hand very fast and he lost the lower part of his left leg. This has inspired me to be loyal to our country and fight for what I believe in.

After returning home, he got a prosthetic lower leg and decided to move on with his life. Months later he went to a local dance, and there he met the love of his life. Her name was Angie, and she knew he lost his leg in World War II but that didn't faze her one bit. Together they had the time of their lives dancing. They dated for almost a year and he proposed on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Their life began in a 14 ft. trailer, and the rest is history. He didn't let his disability stop him on living his life and he taught me that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

As the years passed, they raised 11 intelligent and charming children. The youngest being my mother and the oldest being the first elected female mayor of North Dakota. My grandpa is so remarkable because he managed to do all of this with only an eighth grade education and a prosthetic leg. He had so much courage and bravery that influences me to try my hardest and never give up on my dreams.

By: Cambree Billehus

**Grandpa, we all love you – you are our hero!**

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Services provided by:  
Weigel Funeral and Cremation Services  
Tom Weigel ~ Larry Urbanec ~ Shawn Harrington  
Go to [www.weigelfuneral.com](http://www.weigelfuneral.com) to sign the online guestbook.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE

OF



*Alexander "Alex" Schafer*

1925 - 2018



Alexander "Alex" Schafer, 93, of Mandan, passed away at his home on August 19, 2018.

Alex was born to Peter and Katherina (Huck) Schafer on May 1, 1925. He was born and raised in Glen Ullin, ND. At the tender age of 17, he enlisted into the United States Navy. He served his country proudly from 1942 to 1945 as Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class. He was a cook and also manned a 24 mm gun aboard the USS San Carlos in the Pacific Theater. In October of 1944, he bravely took part in the Battle of Leyte Gulf near a chain of the Philippine islands. The

battle is considered to be the largest naval battle of World War II. Alex was a proud Navy man and even prouder World War II Veteran.

He met the love of his life Angeline (Angie) Jochim at a dance in Judson, ND. This was the beginning of their unwavering love story. The two were united in marriage on June 23, 1947 in Flasher, ND and spent the next 70 years as husband and wife. Together they lovingly and "energetically" raised their 11 children. Alex worked very hard to support his large family. Notably, he was a print setter for the Bismarck Tribune for 31 years - retiring in 1986. He was also the Bismarck Tribune Circulation Manager for the Mandan carriers. He also owned Mandan's iconic Ohm's café which the spatula was eventually passed onto his daughter Sharon and son Tim.

Alex's clever wit and smart sense of humor continues to radiate through all of his children. Alex was a generous man, loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather. He LOVED so many and touched so many lives. In a love letter from mom to dad she writes, "My Darling Alex, how much I miss you darling. I can't hardly wait until you come home. I Love you, I Love you, I Love you. God Bless you sweet wonderful Alex. Your loving wife, Angie." Now, their Love story continues in HEAVEN! Dad go home to Mom...continue your eternal love story! When you get there, proclaim, "JESUS, I TRUST YOU!"

Alex is survived by his children, Alex Jr. (Christy) Aurora, CO, Charles, Mandan, Deborah (Cliff) Kaiser, Mandan, Mary (Ray) Johnson, Mandan, Timothy, Mandan, Donald (Annette), Minot, Mark, Bismarck, Arthur (Val) Bismarck, Paula (David) Alfstad, New Salem, Judy (Alan) Billehus, Williston; 19 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; sisters, Eva (Earl) Story, Malcom, IA, Loretta (Richard) Schantz, Glen Ullin, ND, Alice (Art) Boulet, VT; brother, Tom (Gloria) Schafer, Dickinson, ND.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Katherina; his wife, Angeline; daughter, Sharon; grandson, James; sisters, Rose Palmer, Mary Sims and Tillie Fullerton; brothers, Franz, George, Edward, Harry, and Joe.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Mandan.

*Following the burial the family invites you for lunch and fellowship at the Mandan Moose Lodge.*

111 11th Ave NE, Mandan, ND

*In Loving Memory Of*

# Alexander "Alex" Schafer

May 1, 1925—August 19, 2018

*Parish Rosary/Vigil*

**Thursday, August 23, 2018; 7:00 p.m.**

*Weigel Funeral Home*

*Deacon Randy Frohlich*

*Presider*

**Friday, August 24, 2018; 10:30 a.m.**

*Funeral Liturgy*

*Church of St. Joseph*

*Rev. Josh Waltz*

*Celebrant*

*Musicians*

*Melissa Mosbrucker & Gene Mosbrucker*

*Prelude*

*"Here I am, Lord"*

*Opening Song*

*"On Eagle's Wings"*

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*Liturgy of the Word*

*Old Testament Reading*

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

*Lector*

*Kisa - Granddaughter*

*Responsorial Psalm*

*Psalm 130*

*"Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord."*

*New Testament Reading*

*Romans 6:3-4, 8-9*

*Lector*

*Cambree - Granddaughter*

*Gospel Reading*

*John 14:1-16*

*Homily*

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*Liturgy of the Eucharist*

*Preparation of Gifts Song*

*"Amazing Grace"*

*Presentation of Gifts*

*Granddaughters: Jeni ~ Rylie ~ Nicole ~ Alexandra*

*Consecration of Eucharist*

*Communion Song*

*"The Chaplet of Divine Mercy"*

*Final Commendation*

*"Old Hundredth"*

*Closing Song*

*"God Bless America"*

***Casket Bearers - Grandchildren***

*Kendrick ~ Amanda Lee ~ Justin ~ Amanda Rae*

*Sara ~ Gina ~ Maggie ~ Amy*

*Interment*

*North Dakota Veterans Cemetery*

*Mandan, North Dakota*