

Remembering a life well-lived...

Gary Olof Sears, 80, a proud family man and lover of farming, of Devils Lake, ND formerly of Minnewaukan, ND passed away at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks on Monday, October 2, 2023 after a brave battle with that damn covid.

Gary was born on February 22, 1943 to Elwin James Sears and Elna Mabel (Pierson) Sears in Devils Lake, ND. He was reared on the Sears farm west of Minnewaukan with his brother Rodney where he took to farming like ice cream to a sundae. He was baptized and confirmed at West Minnewaukan Free Church. He graduated from Minnewaukan High School in 1961 where he excelled on the basketball court and attended NDSU in Fargo, ND. Gary met and fell in love with Virginia Ilene Olson in high school and on June 4, 1962, Gary and Ginny were married in St. Peter Lutheran Church in Minnewaukan. They honeymooned on a road trip to the west coast staying with many relatives and life-long friends along the way. They celebrated 61 years of marriage this summer.

In 2006, he and Rodney got the surprise of their life when their unknown to them sister Lynne Reister contacted them. They were able to spend many years visiting each other and telling stories of their mother and their families.

Gary was undeniably born to farm. He started farming with his father, Elwin, until Elwin's death in 1966. Gary would go on to farm for 70+ years near York and around the farmstead he and Ginny built west of Minnewaukan in 1967. There, they reared their four children and farmed. Gary and Ginny moved to Eventide assisted living in 2021 where they enjoyed meeting new friends and didn't have to cook.

Along with Ginny, he attended almost every sporting game and musical event that his kids and grandkids played in no matter the weather or the distance. He was an avid collector and repairer of farm toys amassing a collection of several thousand pieces. With his grandkids he attended many farm toy shows throughout the Midwest, where everyone knew Gary. He also enjoyed doing carpentry work on the side.

He was a 50+ year member of the Farmers Union, Sons of Norway-Mollargutten Lodge, the St. Peter Cemetery Board and Church Council, the West Bay Township Board and the Minnewaukan Elevator Board with many of those years as president or board officer.

He loved his family, and he loved farming. Gary was one of the good guys. He will be greatly missed by his friends and his family: his wife, Ginny, of 61 years; son, David, of Minnewaukan and his kids with Ann Sears, Tyler (Sam), Quentin and Spencer, all of Minnewaukan, and Madyson of Fargo, ND; son, Jim of Denver, CO; Son, Jerry (Miaa) and his kids with Marianne Sears, John (Jess) of Australia, Katherine of Lewistown, MT, Maria (Joey) of Kodiak, AK, Emily of Montgomery, AL; daughter, Mary, of Grand Forks, ND, and her kids Gabe, Chantelle, John, Jr., Brandon, Shania; a brother, Rodney, Eventide, Devils Lake; a half-sister, Lynne Reister of Seattle, WA; many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; Brothers-in-Law John Olson, of Fargo, ND and Mike (Cindy Moe) of Devils Lake.

Gary is reunited with his parents, Elwin and Elna Sears, his son Joel Andrew Sears born and died in 1965 and his father and mother-in-law, Holger and Ida Olson.

In Loving Memory



Gary O. Sears

Final Harvest

*He was bound to the land from the day of his birth
His roots anchored deep in the fertile earth
Nurtured, sustained, by the soil he grew
And his life, like his furrows, ran straight and true.
In faith, each spring, he planted the seeds
In hope to reap his family's needs
With patience, he waited for the harvest to come
To gather the fruits of his labor home.
Ever turning seasons, the years sped past
Til the final harvest came at last
Then claimed anew by beloved sod
He was gathered home to be with God.*

**God saw he was getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around him
And whispered, "Come with me."
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly
We could not make him stay.
"A golden heart stopped beating
hard working hands at rest."
God shares the pain
Of our broken hearts,
Our lives Gary richly blessed.**

*A Celebration of Life
One of the Good Guys, Respected and Loved By All*

Gary Olof Sears

***Our Husband, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa,
Brother, Uncle, Cousin, Friend and Neighbor***

HIS BIRTH

*Monday, February 22, 1943
Devils Lake, North Dakota*

HIS PASSING

*Monday, October 2, 2023
Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, Nort Dakota*

VISITATION BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

*Sunday, October 8, 2023, 2:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.
Gilbertson Funeral Home Chapel
Devils Lake, North Dakota*

FUNERAL SERVICE

*Monday, October 9, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.
Trinity Free Lutheran Church
Minnewaukan, North Dakota*

OFFICIATING

Pastor Kristen Schwan

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Take My Hand, Precious Lord"
Grandson, John Sears, Soloist
Congregational Hymns*

*"The Old Rugged Cross" "Amazing Grace"
"How Great Thou Art"*

Rachel Markestad, Organist/Pianist

CASKET BEARERS

Gary and Ginny's Grandchildren

EARTHLY PLACE OF REST

*St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery
Rural Minnewaukan, North Dakota*

A heartfelt thank you to the Altru Hospital doctors, nurses, and staff, the Eventide staff and all the friends they made there, the Farmer's Press, the participants in the funeral service and the Timely Topics for providing the lunch.