

Donald Heisler, age 76, of Ottertail, MN passed away peacefully Saturday, May 20, 2023 in Perham Living, Perham, MN.

Donald Joseph Heisler was born in Harvey, ND to Joseph R. and Bernice (Bachmeier) Heisler on December 27, 1946. He attended school at St. Cecilia parochial school and Harvey High School. He graduated in 1964 and in the spring of 1966, he was drafted in to the Army and served two years in Stuttgart, Germany.

Upon his return home, he and his brother Marvin moved to Minnesota where they set up a dairy and grain operation. In 1977, the brothers went their separate ways and Donnie moved his operation to a farm in Ottertail where he farmed until his death.

Donnie enjoyed his livestock and bunnies with his favorite dog, Buddy. He will be sadly missed not only by his brothers, sister, nieces, and nephews, but also by the many friends he acquired during his lifetime on his farm.

Surviving Donald are his sister Lorraine (Andrew) Deck of Bismarck, ND; brothers Marvin (Sandy) Heisler of Vergas, MN and Ronald D. Heisler of Mohall, ND; his nephews Todd M. Deck, Mitchell Heisler, Dustin Heisler, Brandon Heisler, and Cody Heisler; and his nieces Tamara Solie, Jennifer Myers, and Nicole Heisler.

Preceding Donald in death were his parents.

Remembering

T H E L I F E O F



Donald J. Heisler

December 27, 1946 - May 20, 2023

“So God Made a Farmer”

A speech by Paul Harvey

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

Funeral Mass

Friday, May 26, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

St. James Catholic Church of Maine Twp.

Underwood, Minnesota

Officiant

Father LeRoy Schik

Musicians

Joan Klinnert - Bonnie Jennen

Casket Bearers

Dustin Heisler - Brandon Heisler

Cody Heisler - Mitchell Heisler

Todd Deck - Joseph Heisler

Gage Heisler - Dalton Heisler

Military Honors

Perham VFW Post #4020

Dent American Legion Post #148

Minnesota Army National Guard Honor Guard

Interment

St. James Catholic Church Cemetery

