

Richard Byer, age 86 of Perham, MN, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, November 26, 2023 on his way to town to buy vegetable oil, a missing ingredient he needed to bake a cake.

Richard Leo Byer was born in Frazee, MN on June 19, 1937, the son of Anton and Cecillia (Joachim) Byer. After high school, Richard worked as a hired hand, helping on local farms. He also spent some time working at a turkey plant before enlisting in the Army. Soon after being honorably discharged from the Army, Richard started driving truck for Land O'Lakes in 1964. This began a lifelong career as a truck driver. He went on to receive The Million Mile Award for safe driving and eventually retired from the road in 2003.

While attending singles dances, Richard met Dorothy. Together they loved polka dancing and were married October 2, 1993. Dorothy was the love of Richard's life and they worked well together to raise their blended family. Dorothy passed away June 12, 2023 and some who know Richard well may say he died of a broken heart.

Richard will be remembered for his love of polka music and dancing with Dorothy. He also loved to cut and split wood and go fishing with his sons. He was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church helping with the cemetery by cutting grass and leveling and raising older monuments. Richard could fix most anything. He may have not used textbook instructions, but when he was finished, it worked!

Surviving Richard are his children Mark (Cindy) Byer of Frazee, Dean (Carrie) Byer of Pengilly, MN, Brian Byer of Fargo, ND, Gerald Byer of Nevis, MN, Kevin (Christy) Byer of Osage, MN, Lynn Zacher of Aberdeen, SD, Thomas Wikman of Hibbing, MN, Karen (Greg) Swanson of Fargo, Kerry (Charles) Stewart of Vancouver, WA, Bradley Wikman of Brainerd, MN, and Sarah (Aaron) Wendt of Boise, ID; 27 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; his brother Joseph Byer; and his sisters Evanell Christianson, Bernice Muscarello, Florence Jensen, and Delores Manning.

Preceding Richard in death were his parents; his wife Dorothy; his son Darwin Byer; and his siblings Harold Byer, Irene Byer, Alberta Moore, and Leonard Byer.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Richard Leo Byer

June 19, 1937 - November 26, 2023

The LORD is my *Shepherd;*
I shall not want.

He maketh me to
lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my
soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over
Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD *forever.*
- Psalm 23

Memorial Service

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Corliss Township, Minnesota

Officiant

Pastor Justin Whitmore

Urn Bearer

Mark Byer

Musician

Amy Sobieski

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace"

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

Interment

St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery

*The Byer family would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful
gifts, kind words, and prayers during this difficult time.*