

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Francis “Franny” Duane DeBoer, 91, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Franny passed away peacefully at his home on September 22, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Franny’s journey in life began in Crookston, MN on April 30, 1932, one of five children of parents, Frank and Una (Briden) DeBoer. He attended the District 140 Old Brick Schoolhouse until the 8th grade. After completing his education, he embarked on a career in farming alongside his father, Frank and brother, Claire. Later on, he joined forces with his father-in-law, Veral Gibbons, and together they managed their farming operations. The love for agriculture ran deep in Franny’s veins, as he shared this passion with his sons and farmed alongside them.

On August 29, 1953, Franny was united in marriage to Colene Gibbons at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Crookston. They shared 70 wonderful years together and had four sons: Dennis, Gary, James, and Todd. Franny honorably served his country with the US Army from March, 1954 until his discharge in March, 1956. He proudly served with the 554th Ordinance Company of Fort Hood, Texas. His time in the military instilled in him a strong sense of discipline and dedication that carried over to every aspect of his life. Beyond farming and military service, Franny had various hobbies and interests that brought immense joy to his life. He had a passion for collecting toy tractors and thoroughly enjoyed attending toy tractor shows where he could share his enthusiasm with fellow collectors. Franny also found pleasure in restoring John Deere tractors to their former glory. Aside from these hobbies, Franny took his family on many trips across the country, especially to Branson—one of his favorite destinations. As much as he cherished his hobbies, the true essence of Franny’s character shone through in his role as a family man. He was an exceptional husband who always showed kindness and compassion towards his beloved wife, Colene. Franny’s dedication to being a loving father was unwavering; he took great pride in nurturing and supporting his children throughout their lives. Being a grandfather and great-grandfather brought him immeasurable joy, and he cherished every moment spent with his grandchildren. Franny’s attention to detail was evident not only in his farming practices but also in the way he cared for his family. He approached each aspect of his life with meticulousness and a genuine desire to create a nurturing and loving environment for those he held dear. A kind and gentle soul, Franny will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of love, dedication, and generosity will continue to inspire those left behind. As we mourn his passing, let us also celebrate the beautiful life he lived.

Francis is survived by his wife, Colene (Gibbons) DeBoer; Sons and Daughters-in-law: Dennis (Kelly) DeBoer, Gary (Beth) DeBoer, and James (Nell) DeBoer, all of Crookston; and Todd DeBoer of Baxter, MN; 11 Grandchildren: Cole, Brady, Alex, Tiffany, Jessica, Jordan, Nicole, Samantha, Ashley, Janessa, and Evan; 9 Great-Grandchildren: Myla, Kenzie, Hudson, Evelyn, Jersie, Avery, Ryker, Rhett, and Aiden; 2 Sisters, Pearl Radi of Fargo, ND, and Vivian Berg of Vancouver, WA; and 2 Sisters-in-Law, Clarice DeBoer of Crookston and Susan Gibbons of Eagan, MN.

Fran is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Una DeBoer; Daughter-in-Law, Marcie DeBoer; Grandson, Joshua DeBoer; Parents-in-law, Veral and Doris Gibbons; Brother, Claire DeBoer, Sister, Jean Solheim; and 3 Brothers-in-Law: Everett Solheim, Les Radi, and Alan Berg.

Blessed be the memory of Francis “Franny” Duane DeBoer

Treasured Seasons

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace.



