

Thomas L. (Tom) Sperling, age 74, passed away at his home in Mandan on February 18, 2024, under the care of hospice.

The oldest of three sons, Tom was born November 23, 1949, at St. Alexius Hospital, Bismarck, ND to Elmer and Norma (Eisenbeis) Sperling. He grew up in the small town of Lehr, ND, was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, attended grade and high school at Lehr Public School, graduating with the class of 1967. He attended two years of college at UND, Ellendale Branch, prior to transferring to UND Grand Forks. He graduated with a degree in Psychology.

Tom began working for the Soo Line Railroad in the summer of 1972. He was hired as a brakeman on December 7, 1972, when eligible he became a conductor and held this position until he retired in December of 2009. He was an active member of the United Transportation Union, serving as Local Chairman of the UTU, Soo Line Local 1344 from 1978 to 2009. He also served on the UTU General Committee of Adjustment.

Tom and Nancy Reiland were married October 19, 1977, at Valley City, ND. They resided in Bismarck until they purchased their home in Mandan in 1985 and have resided there ever since. They purchased their "happy place" in Riverdale, ND in 2007. Tom spent most of his retirement years fishing on Lake Sakakawea and enjoying the company of his great neighbors.

He was a member of the Bis-Man Reel & Rec Club, ND Sports Fishing Congress, Great Plains Trout & Salmon Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Bismarck Elks club. Tom was most proud of his 13 years of sobriety, achieved with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous. He made numerous friends along the way and maintained many of those friendships throughout his lifetime.

Tom tended to bring home many dogs throughout the years, but it was always Nancy who ended up caring for them. In return, they were both rewarded with unconditional love and true companionship.

Tom was survived by his wife, Nancy and is survived by his mother, Norma Sperling, Wishek, ND; brother Craig (Lori) Sperling, Bismarck, ND; sisters-in-law Beth Rudolf, Mandan, ND and Elaine Reiland, Hernando, FL; brother-in-law Paul (Tamie) Reiland, Mitchell, SD; four nephews, four nieces, and four great nephews, and four great nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father, Elmer Sperling; father-in-law, Arnold Reiland; mother-in-law, Joyce Reiland-Schauer; step father-in-law, Melvin Schauer; brother, James Sperling; brothers-in-law John Reiland, Leo Krein and Curt Rudolf; nephews Tyler Sperling and William Reed. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider a donation in Tom's memory to Alcoholics Anonymous or the American Cancer Society.



Nancy A. Sperling, 75, passed away at her home in Mandan, ND, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Nancy Ann Reiland was born October 29, 1948, to Arnold James and Joyce Ann (Jarske) Reiland at St. Luke's Hospital in Crosby, ND. Her earliest years were spent in various small towns across ND where her father worked as a relief agent for the Soo Line Railroad. In 1951 he accepted a permanent agent position in Lehr, ND where Nancy and her siblings were raised. She graduated from Lehr High School in 1966 and Capital Commercial College in 1970.

Nancy and Thomas L. Sperling were married on October 19, 1977, in Valley City, ND. They resided in Bismarck several years prior to purchasing their home in Mandan in 1985.

In 1970 Nancy began a 43-year career with St. Alexius Medical Center and retired as a buyer with the purchasing department in 2013. She was a dedicated employee with strong emphasis on detail, problem solving, and accuracy. Nancy was a 50-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, a lifetime member of the Bis-Man Reel & Rec Club, a lifetime member of Weight Watchers, and also a member of Al-Anon.

Nancy is survived by her sister, Beth Rudolf; brother, Paul (Tamie) Reiland; sister-in-law, Elaine Reiland; mother-in-law, Norma Sperling, and brother-in-law Craig (Lori) Sperling. She is also survived by four nieces, four nephews, several great nieces and nephews, cousins, many relatives of her stepfather, and dear friends.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Thomas L. Sperling; father, Arnold Reiland; mother, Joyce Schauer; stepfather, Melvin Schauer; brother, John Reiland; nephews, William Reed and Tyler Sperling; father-in-law, Elmer Sperling; brothers-in-law, Leo Krein, Curt Rudolf, James Sperling, and lifelong friends Marian Stolz and Blanche Nagel.

In Loving Memory of
Thomas & Nancy

November 23, 1949 October 29, 1948
February 18, 2024 May 13, 2024

Sperling

Memorial Service

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 ▪ 11:30 AM
Parkway Funeral Service ▪ 2330 Tyler Pkwy
Bismarck, North Dakota

Interment

At a later date
Lehr City Cemetery

Prelude
Words of Promise
Opening Song *“How Great Thou Great”*
Opening Words and Prayer
Scripture

Psalm 23
Revelation 21:1-6
John 14:1-6

Meditation
Special Music *“Here I am Lord”*
Apostles Creed
Prayers
Lord’s Prayer
Commendation
Recessional Song *“Amazing Grace”*

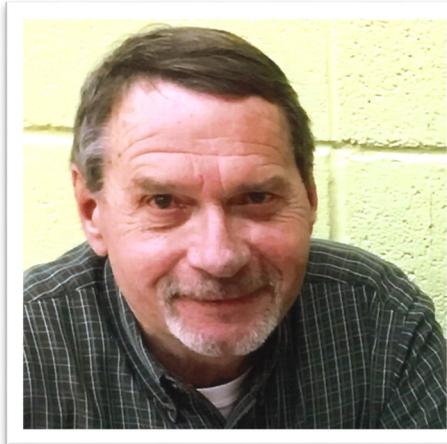
Officiant Joel Samuelson

Following the service, family invites you to join them for lunch and fellowship in the Community Room at Parkway.



Tribute Video

WHY DO YOU HUNT



*A man I know, asked me
this just the other day.
Why is it that you like to hunt and
kill things just for play?
It angered me that this he’d ask
and so I made reply,
I do not hunt just for sport not just
to see things die.
Hunting is a special art mastered
but by few, ‘Twas not intended for
everyone and certainly not for
you.*

*Do you like woolen shirts and
gloves, cold mornings and snow
falls; Do you like sounds of
whistling wings and pleading mallard calls? First morning light and evening
sun are favored things of mine In all God’s world, the out of doors my
treasured gifts I find.*

*Old guns, hip boots, and four wheel drives are special things to me, Hunting
on a new found lake, no place I’d rather be. I enjoy the brotherhood of me
and friend afield, Taking on the elements and all that they can wield. Hunting
is a pleasure that I have come to love Granted from my Maker a gift from up
above.*

*You asked me why I like to hunt I answered best I can, I guess another
reason is to make myself a man.*

*So hasten not to be the judge of what I like to do until you’ve been afield, my
friend, and joined the special few.*

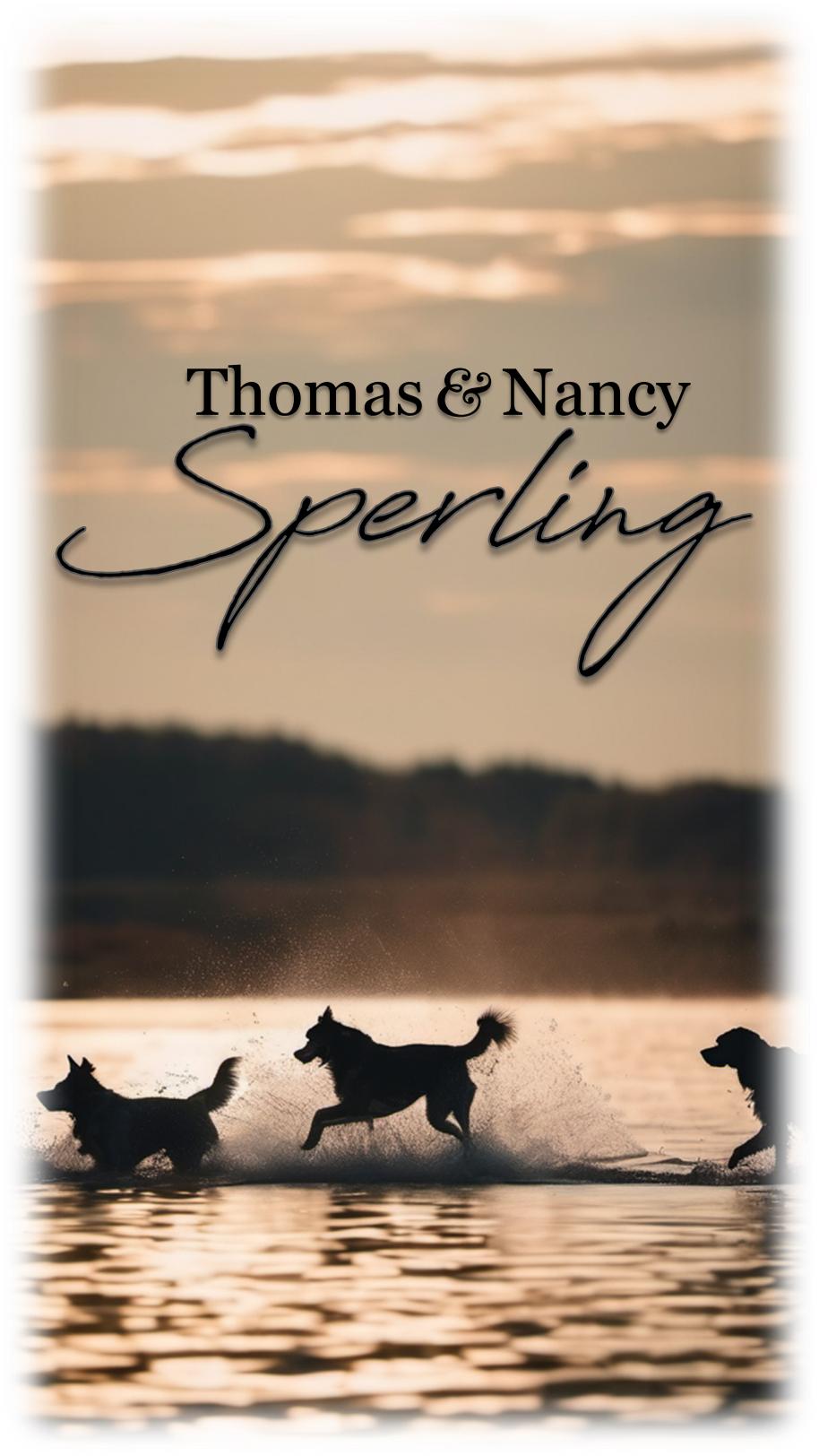
LOVING MEMORIES

*Your gentle face and patient
smile, With sadness we recall, you
had a kindly word for each and
died beloved by all.*

*The voice is mute and stilled the
heart, that loved us well and true.
Ah, bitter was the trial to part
from one so good as you.*

*You are not forgotten loved one
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
we will remember thee.*

*We miss you now, our hearts are
sore, As time goes by we miss you
more. Your loving smile, your gentle face, No one can fill your vacant place.*



Thomas & Nancy

Sperling