

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

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."

"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."

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 hay-wire, 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."

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.

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.*



*Celebrating The Life Of  
Douglas Dean Houlton*

*May 11, 1952 ~ October 8, 2024*





Douglas Dean Houlton was born May 11, 1952, in Le Mars, Iowa to Charles and Helen (Johnson) Houlton of Ireton, Iowa. Doug went to his eternal home on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the age of 72 years at Unity Point Hospital under Comfort Care having fought a brief battle with cancer. Doug was a very loyal person to the community. He was a member of the Ireton United Methodist church where he was currently serving as chairman of the board. He had also served as Lay Leader, Youth group leader and trustee. He was currently serving on the Ireton Community Foundation Board and Rural Community Fire Board as trustee. In the 70's he served on the Sioux County Pork Producers. He had also served on the Ireton Booster Club, Iowa State Bank Community Board, Northwest Iowa Board of Realtors, West Sioux Athletic Booster Club and Sioux County Zoning as well as numerous others.

Doug began as an Auctioneer and Realtor for Beyer Auction & Realty and was currently a Realtor for CENTURY 21 Pro Link in Le Mars. He also had his own auction company Houlton Auction Service. He did various charity auctions over the years for organizations, schools, fundraisers and more.

Doug was a member of Sioux County Ducks Unlimited, Sioux County Pheasants Forever, Sioux County Sportsmen's Club, Iowa Auctioneers Association, National Auctioneers Association, West Sioux Athletic Boosters, West Sioux Music Boosters, Sioux County Cattlemen's Club, Sioux County Farm Bureau and more.

In 2014 Doug was honored to be nominated as the Ireton Citizen of the Year.

Doug married Sue (Larsen) of Maurice, Iowa on November 30, 1974, and made their home on the Houlton Century Farm where they were blessed with 2 children: Dawna and Dustin.

Doug went to his eternal home on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at Unity Point health St. Luke's in Sioux City, Iowa at the age of 72.

Doug is survived by his **wife Sue Houlton**; their children and their families, **daughter, Dawna and Jim Stangel** of Sioux City, Iowa and their children, Matt Stangel and fiancé Abbi of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Hannah (Goldsmith) and Brandon Brotherton of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, Josh Stangel of Spirit Lake, Iowa, Kate Stangel of Chicago, Illinois, and Chloe Goldsmith and friend Jacob Wohlert of Sioux City; **son, Dustin & Rachael (Driesen) Houlton** of Ireton, and their children, Charles Houlton, Oliver Houlton and Lilly Houlton of Ireton; brother, Bruce and Janet (Larson) Houlton of Earlville, Iowa; siblings-in-law, Don Eisma of Prior Lake, Minnesota, Jerry and Helen (Zomer) Larsen of Maurice, Tim and Cindy (De Jager) Larsen of Maurice, Cindy Larsen of Sibley, Iowa, Lori (Larsen) and Chris Scott of Longmont, Colorado, and Matt Larsen of Golden, Colorado; step-mother-in-law, Joyce Larsen of Hawarden, Iowa; a very special friend, Dr. Dan Anderson at the UNMC; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Helen Houlton; parents-in-law, Jim and Loretta Larsen; sisters, Elaine Skogman and Kay Eisma; and brother-in-law, Chuck Skogman.

Doug will be remembered for his sense of humor, honesty, caring, giving, faithfulness, and helping others in need. Feeding cattle was his passion and he enjoyed going to athletic events, especially to watch his kids and grandkids.

*In Loving Memory Of*  
***Douglas Dean Houlton***

May 11, 1952 † October 8, 2024

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

7:00 p.m. Monday, October 14, 2024

Ireton Community Center

Ireton, Iowa

**OFFICIATING**

Rev. Harlan De Jong

Rev. Samuel Ansong

**ORGANIST**

Judy Vlietstra

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Doug Ten Napel and Carmen Noteboom

*"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"*

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS**

Matt Stangel ~ Hannah Brotherton

Josh Stangel ~ Kate Stangel

Chloe Goldsmith ~ Charles Houlton

Oliver Houlton ~ Lilly Houlton

**CASKET BEARERS**

Paul Eilts ~ Kevin Eisma

Ryan Noble ~ Ryan Schwiesow

Scott Te Groothuis ~ Stan Hoekstra