



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

# DeWayne J. Ritzschke

JULY 16, 1957 – FEBRUARY 25, 2023

**Services At:**

Pedersen Funeral Home - Morris, Minnesota  
Thursday - March 2, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

**Officiating Clergy:**

Reverend Emmy Swedlund

**Musical Selections:**

*Amazing Grace*  
*On Eagle's Wings*  
*Wagon Wheel*

**Urbearers:**

Scott "Bubba" Ritzschke, Terrance 'TJ' Nefzger  
Daniel Nefzger, Kevin Kruize  
Darwin Scherer, Rick Scherer

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

All Who Called DeWayne  
'Friend' or 'Gramps'

GOD looked around the garden,  
And found an empty space.  
He looked down upon the earth,  
And saw your tired face. He put  
*His arms around you*  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
For He only takes the BEST.  
He knew that you were weary,  
and He knew that you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
be well on earth again.  
He saw the roads were getting rough,  
and the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
and whispered  
*Peace be Shine.*

*In lieu of sending individual notes, we would like to take  
this opportunity to say a very heartfelt*

***Thank You***

*for your many acts of kindness and support during this difficult time.*

DeWayne James Ritzschke was born on July 16, 1957, to Perry Raymond and Ardith Rosette Lorraine (Bailey Jones) Ritzschke in Morris, Minnesota. He was raised on the family farm; and lived in the Herman, Donnelly, and Morris areas. He was baptized and confirmed at the Herman Methodist Church in Herman. DeWayne received his education in the Herman and Morris school districts. Following his schooling, he worked with Great Plains Supply in Chokio, constructing pole buildings and grain bins. He made a move to Boise, Idaho, for a few years before moving back home. He worked at Culligun in Morris and John Hawkinson Construction before starting DeWayne Ritzschke Construction, retiring in July of 2020. In 1980, DeWayne met Deanna Heuer at a graduation party; a couple months later, he ran into her at The Met in Morris where he asked her on a date. This began their relationship, and they made their home for a short time in Morris before moving to Donnelly.

DeWayne was always an early riser and hard worker. In his earlier years, he would get up to do horse chores before school. In addition to his work, he was always willing to help with tasks and 'handyman' work for residents of Donnelly and Morris. DeWayne donated his time to the Donnelly Threshing Bee, working with engines, and doing concrete and construction work. He and Deanna enjoyed traveling to different flea markets and threshing bees, attending rodeos, the races in Alexandria, and several county fairs. DeWayne had a love of the outdoors, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping at Red Rock and gardening. He especially loved to cook and barbecue for Deanna. He cherished the time that he was able to spend with his family and friends. DeWayne loved watching and feeding the birds and also finding a good bargain at garage sales.

DeWayne died on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the Stevens Community Medical Center in Morris; he was 65 years old.

DeWayne is survived by his life partner, Deanna Heuer of Donnelly; siblings: Karen (Dale) Boothby of Wheaton, Ardith Nefzger of Erskine, Robert (Jean) Ritzschke of Alberta, and Gary "Pinkie" (Janet Hagen) Ritzschke of Kensington; brothers-in-law: Larry Smith of Roseberg, OR, and Bill Kruize of Fergus Falls; sister-in-law, Jackie Ritzschke of Denton, TX; and several nieces, nephews and extended family. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters: Carolyn Smith and Barb Kruize; brother Donald Ritzschke; nephew, Kory Kruize; and great-niece, Kenzie Kraft.

**Pedersen**  
Funeral & Cremation Service

101 South Atlantic Ave  
Morris, MN 56267  
(320) 589-3220  
[www.PedersenFH.com](http://www.PedersenFH.com)

