

## So God Made A Rancher

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

— so God made a Rancher.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board"

— so God made a Rancher.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle 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, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon — and mean it"

— so God made a Rancher.

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 haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps; who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n from tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours"

— so God made a Rancher.

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

— so God made a Rancher.

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 would 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 that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does"

— so God made a Rancher.

By Paul Harvey

## In Loving Memory



*Orville Deckert*  
*October 3, 1928 ~ May 22, 2024*

## *Remembering the beautiful life of...*

Orville Deckert, a dedicated rancher and beloved family man, passed away at his home in Devils Lake, ND on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on October 3, 1928, at home on the farm 6 miles south of Arena in Burleigh County, Harriet Township, ND, the son of William and Lena (Ensz) Deckert. Orville's passion for ranching blossomed at a young age when he purchased his first heifer calf and took over the family farm at 16 years of age. This marked the beginning of a lifelong journey filled with love for his cattle and dedication to his craft.

In addition to his successful career in ranching, Orville found love and companionship with Maria Hiebert, whom he married on June 1, 1955, at the Mennonite Zion Church near the ranch. Their love story was blessed with nearly 69 years of unwavering devotion and support for each other.

Throughout his life, Orville's faith in the Lord was steady, and he was baptized in the Mennonite Zion Church—a moment that brought great pride to him. He also excelled in various leadership roles within his church, the community, and agricultural associations and boards; the Minnesota Valley Breeders Association, American Simmental Association, United Bank, Harriet Township supervisor, and the Burleigh County Township Officers Association. He also led the Harriet Hustlers 4-H Club for 30 years. He was an active member of the Mennonite Zion Church. He participated on the church board and often sang in various groups with his siblings. He supported missions at home and abroad, was a member of the Gideon Society, and served on the FaHoCha Bible Conference Board.

Orville's love for horses, deer hunting, fishing, playing board games, and solving puzzles added richness and joy to his life outside of ranching. His warm smile and kind heart touched all who knew him. He was a man of few words but immense actions, always there for his family and friends when they needed him the most.

Orville is survived by his loving wife Maria; children: Jeffrey (Theresa) Deckert, Desiree (Fred) Schmidt, Justin (Carrie) Deckert, Jason (Paula) Deckert, DoRae (Jeremy) Wulbecker; grandchildren: Jonathan (Andrea) Deckert, Larisa (Eric) Netterlund, Jared (Emily) Deckert, Joseph (Neva) Deckert/ Tyler (Rena) Schmidt, Trevor (Kristen) Schmidt, Danica (Adrian) Suarez, Kyle (Janna) Schmidt/ Jaden (Kelsey), Paige (fiancé Alex), Jaxon Deckert/ Darica, Jacen, Ellie Deckert/ Marcus, Josiah, Maria, Eben Wulbecker; twenty-four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; many other cherished family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Lena Deckert, seven siblings with their spouses: Art (Ethel) Deckert, George (Ann) Deckert, Lillian (Dave) Buller, Elma (Ray) Hinkel, Henry (Doris Jean) Deckert, Bernard (Ruth) Deckert, and Burnette (John) Teske, several nieces and nephews, in-laws Heinrich and Maria Hiebert, and life-long friend, Dale Nitzche.

The memories Orville leaves behind will forever be treasured by those whose lives he touched. His legacy of hard work, love for family, and commitment to faith will continue to inspire generations to come.

# Orville Deckert

## TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

*Gilbertson Funeral Home Chapel*

*Devils Lake, North Dakota*

*Tuesday, May 28, 2024 ~ 7:00 p.m.*

## FUNERAL SERVICE

*Bethel Evangelical Free Church*

*Devils Lake, North Dakota*

*Wednesday, May 29, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.*

## OFFICIATING, READING SCRIPTURE

*Bill Biby, Joseph Deckert, Kyle Schmidt*

## SPECIAL TRIBUTES

*Darica Deckert, Slide Show*

*Jaden Deckert, Eulogy*

*Trevor Schmidt, Obituary*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jonathan Deckert, Soloist and Song Leader*

*Elizabeth Deckert, Pianist*

## CASKET BEARERS

*Marcus Wulbecker ~ Josiah Wulbecker ~ Eben Wulbecker*

*Jaxon Deckert ~ Jacen Deckert ~ Jared Deckert*

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Larisa Netterlund ~ Tyler Schmidt ~ Danica Suarez ~ Paige Deckert*

*Darica Deckert ~ Ellison Deckert ~ Maria Wulbecker*

## EARTHLY PLACE OF REST

*Mennonite Zion Cemetery*

*(24651 392nd St. NE/ 6 miles South of Arena)*

*Rural Arena, North Dakota*

*Wednesday, May 29, 2024 ~ 4:00 p.m.*