

Richard William Mertens was born April 17, 1937 in Brooten, MN, the son of Raymond and Grace (Majerus) Mertens. At age six Rich and his family moved to Hudson Township near Alexandria, MN. He attended country school for one year before going to school in Villard, MN. He graduated from high school in Villard.

At age fifteen Rich took over the daily operations of the family farm due to his father's poor health. He began buying more cows and land. Rich continued farming with his father until Raymond died in 1975. He also worked for a time at the elevator in Villard.

On September 4, 1962 Rich was united in marriage to Carol Springer at St. Bartholomew's Church in Villard. The couple made their home on the family farm and was blessed with four children. Rich operated a true family farm with all of the children pitching in to complete the daily chores. In 1986 Rich sold the milk cows but continued farming the land. During the winter of 1986 Rich and his family operated the Villard Café. In 1999 he began renting the land out but continued raising beef cattle until 2010. Rich and Carol continued to live on the farm with Richard, Jr.

Rich's main hobby was his work. He loved the land and farm work. Rich also enjoyed target practice and spending time cutting wood for winter heating. Rich enjoyed his cats and loved to sneak them into the house. Rich also was pretty clever with machinery. If he wanted to get a machine to do a certain job he would make the modifications needed to make it work.

Rich's family was the most important thing to him. He was a hard worker and he passed that, and several other values, on to his children for which they are grateful. They will miss him very much.

On Saturday, October 21, 2017 Rich died at the age of eighty years. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Robert Mertens. Rich is survived by his wife, Carol Mertens of Hudson Township; sons, Richard Mertens, Jr. of Hudson Township and Charles Mertens and wife, Kristi, of Minneapolis, MN; daughters, Cris Udean and husband, Mike, of Nisswa, MN and Susan Mertens and friend, Mark Niemmers, of Cyrus, MN; grandchildren, Nathan Fiala and wife, Holly, Kyle Mertens, Alyssa Mertens, Richard Mertens, Alexander Mertens and Shaynna Mertens; and great grandchildren, Brayden Fiala, Jackson Fiala and Griffynn Fiala.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In Memory of

Richard William Mertens

April 17, 1937 † October 21, 2017

Funeral Service

Grace Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Thursday, October 26, 2017
11AM

Officiant

Reverend Peter Reishus

Musicians

Sue Lundblad
Vicki Hessel

Casket Bearers

Kyle Mertens	Richard Mertens
Alexander Mertens	Luke Jackson
Mark Mertens	Jason Mrnak

Honorary Casket Bearers

Nathaniel Seabrook	John Hengel
Ray Dau	Nathan Seabrook
James Springer	Jason Mrnak
Gary Gylsen	

Military Honors

Alexandria Veterans Honor Guard

Interment

Lake Leven Cemetery
Villard, Minnesota

