

My father sings

**And in his voice, I hear so many things.
Young couples under picnic skies,
Singing as the stars rise,
Harmony in four parts,
Blending as their lives start
Pockets empty, hearts, hopes high,
Small town friendships, lifelong ties.**

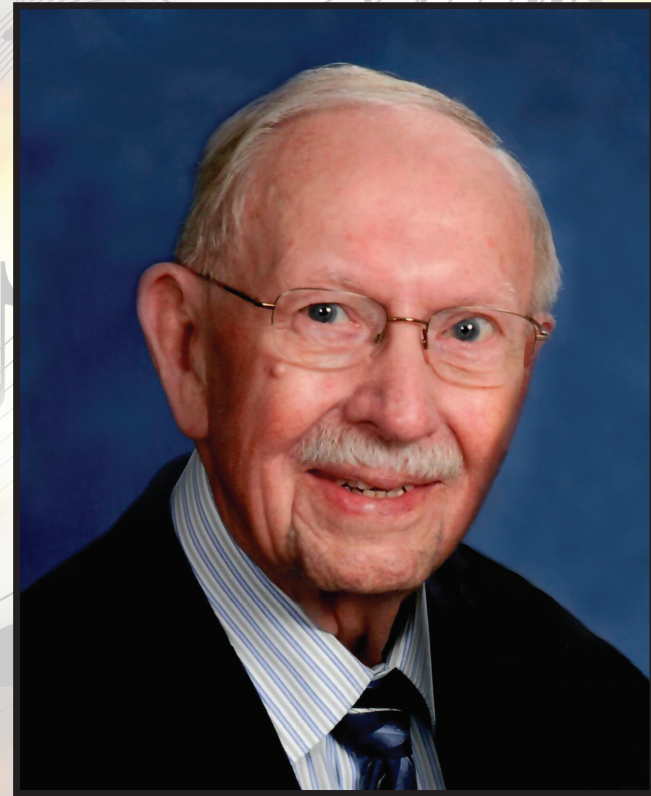
**Family first and persevering,
Never rich, but always verging
On the edge of breaking clear and strong,
Gladly in a burst of song.
"Daddy's Home!" and "Swing me, swing me!"
Children storm the door each night.
Laughing as he gives us flight.
Tiny brown house overflowing,
Cucumbers, rhubarb, marigolds growing.
"Come home when the streetlights turn on",
Drive-in movies in the old Chevy wagon.
The Best Christmas Tree Ever (each and every year).
Vacation road trips (wish you were here!)
The barbershop quartet singing late in the night,
Trick-or-Treats, fireworks, blizzard-hung Christmas lights.**

**Known the whole town for his voice and kind heart,
He's found his true joy, and gives back equal part.
"Please sing at my wedding", or the concert in the park.
Each note plays on still, like each fire has its spark.
True and tender, he's had one love,
They're each other's biggest fans.
They walk together, they sing together,
And always, they hold hands.**

**Although I'm grown and moved away
It's his voice that gave me wings,
And when asked about my dad I say . . .**

**My father sings.
~With Love, From Janie Bug~**

In Loving Memory



John Hermanson

SEPTEMBER 17, 1932 ~ APRIL 14, 2019

John Hermanson died peacefully the afternoon of April 14, 2019, at Sunset Drive – a Prospera Community in Mandan following a brief illness and a long and happy life.

John was born on September 17, 1932, at his family's home in Sunny, North Dakota. He was the much adored youngest of 11 children born to Mabel Nellie (Hendrickson) and Alfred Edward Hermanson. Although raised with little in the way of material possessions, his childhood was rich with love and filled with the adventures of a boy raised in rural, small town North Dakota.

John showed a talent for singing at a young age and singing became his lifelong passion. From his days with his high school barbershop quartet, through his decades as a proud member of the Bismarck-Mandan Elks Chorus, John was widely known for his beautiful voice. He sang at countless weddings and funerals in the community and, with the Elks chorus, performed solos on stages throughout the US. Music was a constant source of joy to John, and he happily shared that joy with his family and friends.

John's other abiding passion was his love for his wife, Donna Marie (nee Mann). John and Donna started dating in high school and continued to love each other as if they were young sweethearts. When people would comment about the fact that they always walked hand in hand, they would laugh and say "She's holding me up", "No, he's holding me up". The truth we all knew was, they held each other up.

Together, John and Donna worked tirelessly to create a beautiful home and opportunities for their five children. John worked for local newspapers, starting his career with the Mandan Pioneer and retiring from the Mandan Finder. He held second jobs, working evenings to bring home additional income, and was paid for his performances at weddings and funerals. No matter how little money they had, John and Donna always found enough to take the family on summer vacations, to celebrate life's pleasures, and to provide a sense of security for their children. After their children were raised, John and Donna took great pleasure in traveling throughout the US, as well as to Hong Kong, mainland China, Norway and Denmark, the Bahamas, England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

John is survived by his four adoring daughters: Jane (Joe) Barbeau, Los Altos, CA; Sandy Jacobs, Phoenix, AZ; Laura Hermanson, Mandan; and Karen (Tim) Kautzman, Colstrip, MT; his six grandchildren: Jordan and Jack Barbeau, Jeff and Mark Jacobs, Megan (Shawn) Alder, and Emily Kautzman; brothers-in-law, Del (Eileen) Mann, and Connie (Kathy) Mann; as well as many nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents and ten siblings; his son, Steven; and his beloved Donna.

To say that John was a good and kind man would be an enormous understatement. He was the best and kindest of men; a loving and devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His loss leaves his family breathless, and yet grateful for the example he was of how to lead a truly honest, generous, and loving life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in John's honor to First Lutheran Church of Mandan or to the Bismarck-Mandan Elks Chorus.

Please go to www.BuehlerLarson.com to share memories of John.



Prayer Service

Friday, April 19, 2019; 7:00 PM
Buehler-Larson Funeral Home, Mandan

Funeral Service

Saturday, April 20, 2019; 10:00 AM
First Lutheran Church
Mandan, North Dakota

Officiant

Rev. Christina Martin

Organist

Loretta White

Musicians

Bismarck-Mandan Elks Chorus

Celebrating the Life of John Hermanson

Gathering pg.279

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Special Music "The Lord is my Shepherd" Recorded by John Hermanson

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Readings Psalm 23
2 Timothy 4:5-8
John 14:1-6

Funeral Message

Hymn "Amazing Grace" ELW 779

Apostle's Creed pg.282

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Special Music "Happy Trails"

*Committal will take place at Mandan Union Cemetery,
immediately following the funeral service.*

*The family invites you for lunch and fellowship at the Mandan Eagles,
1400 Collins Ave, following the burial service.*