

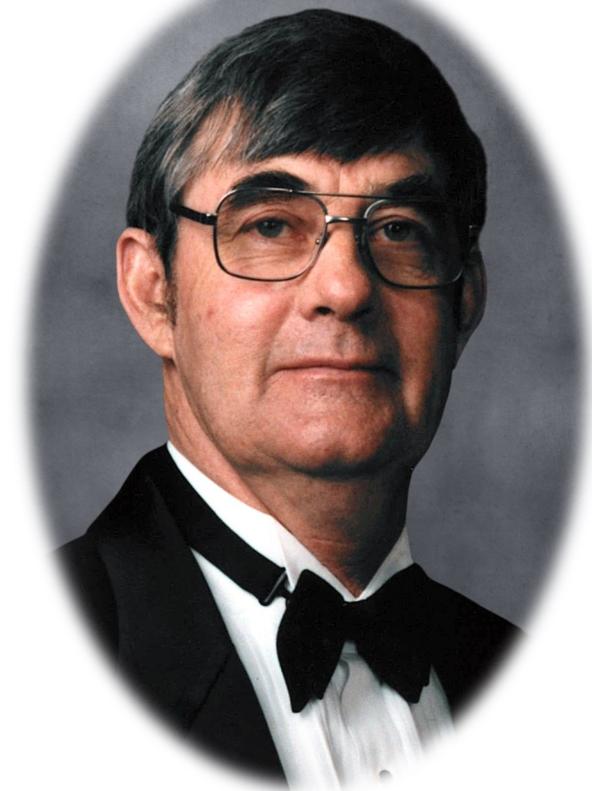
Francis Eugene DeGrote was born September 9, 1934, on the family farm near Clara City, Minnesota, the son of Peter and Minnie (Freese) DeGrote. He grew up and received his education in the Clara City community. On November 27, 1953, Francis was united in marriage to Wilamine Annette Wiese. Since Francis was employed in the construction business, they lived throughout the United States. In 1962, they settled on Eagle Lake and founded the 71 Bait Shop. He continued to work for many years in the construction business as a supervisor for Nelson Construction. Francis was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening and yardwork. He also enjoyed collecting antique fishing rods, reels and lures.

He is survived by his four children, Sheila Thompson of Lake Lillian, Rita (and Douglas) Olson of Tucson, AZ, Lowell (and Jill) DeGrote of Union City, TN, and Jackie Van Hove of Pennock; ten grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and one great great grandson. Also surviving is one brother, Virgil (and Jeanne) DeGrote of Raymond and one sister-in-law, Erma of Clara City, besides other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Wilamine in 2020; one great granddaughter, Shelby Grace; two brothers, Bud and Harm; and one sister-in-law, Marilyn.

Blessed be his memory!

Celebrating the Life of



Francis DeGrote

1934 - 2023



In Loving Memory Of

Francis DeGrote

September 9, 1934

August 19, 2023

Clara City, Minnesota

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, August 26, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home

Willmar, Minnesota

The Fisherman's Prayer

*God grant that I may live to fish
until my dying day.*

And when it comes to my last cast

I then most humbly pray

When in the Lord's safe landing net

I am peacefully asleep,

That in His mercy I be judged

As big enough to keep.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Special Music "Fishing In The Sky" Travis Smith

Obituary

Message Pastor H. Paul McCullough

Special Music "Journey On" Elms District

Closing Prayer

Special Music "Lead Me Home" Jamey Johnson

Postlude

Interment

Cloverleaf Memorial Park Cemetery

Willmar, Minnesota