

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

-- so God made a Farmer.

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 Farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle 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 Farmer.

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 per-simmon 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 Farmer.

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 Farmer.

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 Farmer.

~ Paul Harvey



Heaven Gained a Farmer



Leo Eugene Kopsa
October 14, 1936 - September 4, 2018



Leo E. Kopsa, 81, of Beaman, passed away on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at his home in Beaman, surrounded by his loving family while under the care of Iowa River Hospice. Visitation will be held on Friday, September 7th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Engelkes -Abels Funeral Home in Grundy Center. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, September 8th at 10:30 AM at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in rural Reinbeck with Father David Kucera officiating. Burial

will follow the luncheon at the Rosehill Cemetery in Grundy Center. Memorials may be directed to Iowa River Hospice, 502 Plaza Heights Rd., Marshalltown, IA 50158.

Leo was born on October 14th, 1936 in rural Beaman, IA to his parents Karl & Marie (Taiber) Kopsa. A lifelong Beaman resident, Leo attended school there, graduating from Beaman High School in 1955. After high school, he was drafted into the United States Army. Shortly after, Leo began his lifelong farming career on the family farm. On November 22, 1969, Leo was united in marriage to Helen Andrews. The couple welcomed 4 children into their family, alongside Helen's son Don.

Leo also worked part time at Frazenberg's Meat Locker, Clemens Seed, and in addition to his farming, he sold seed for DeKalb for 30 years, from 1973 to 2003. To say farming was Leo's life would be an understatement! He never steered far from his home, his family, and his love of agriculture.

He was a member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Reinbeck, a member of the Beaman Lions Club, the Beaman American Legion, served on the Beaman Coop board and was a member of the Oakwood Golf Course in Conrad. Leo enjoyed gardening, golfing, doing puzzles and was an avid sports fan. He especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren in all their sporting events. His daily visits to the Beaman Tap were a staple in his morning routine. The family will dearly miss Leo but know he is no longer suffering and is at peace. He will be forever loved and missed by all those he leaves behind.

Leo is survived by his wife, just shy of 50 years, Helen of Beaman; children LJ (Andrea) Kopsa of Beaman, Andy Kopsa Dalal (Tim) of New York, NY, Jolene Kopsa (Ben Corless) of London, England and Beth Kopsa Gibbs (Charles Tye) of Minneapolis, MN and step-son Don (Rama) Giarratano of Henderson, NV; 4 grandchildren Mykel Gradwell of Minneapolis, MN, Lydia (Tanner) Wolken of Conrad and Harris and Isaac Kopsa, both of Beaman; sister Barbara (AJ) Ream; 4 nieces and 1 nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Francis (Joan) Kopsa.

In Loving Memory
Leo Eugene Kopsa
October 14, 1936 - September 4, 2018

Mass of Christian Burial
 Saturday, September 8, 2018
 10:30 AM

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
 Rural Reinbeck, Iowa

Officiating
 Father David Kucera

Lector
 Kathy Zeiner

Eucharistic Minister
 Dean Eslinger

Gift Bearers
 Leo's Grandchildren

Pianist
 Ruth Koltookian

Cantor
 Don Davidson

Congregational Hymns

“Amazing Grace”- Opening Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”- Offertory Hymn

“Prayer of St. Francis”- Communal Hymn

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”- Recessional Hymn

Casket Bearers

Tim Dalal	Charles Tye	Ben Corless
Tanner Wolken	Harris Kopsa	Isaac Kopsa
	Don Giarratano	

Interment
 Rosehill Cemetery
 Grundy Center, Iowa

Military Honors Performed By
 Beaman American Legion Post 131
 Conrad American Legion Post 681

Please join Leo's family in the church Fellowship Hall immediately following Mass. We will leave in procession for Rosehill Cemetery in Grundy Center, at approximately 1:00 PM.