

Remembering the life of...

LaVern J. "Vern" Bertsch, of Devils Lake ND passed away on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at Essentia Health in Fargo ND.

LaVern Joseph Bertsch, son of John and Mary M. (Wentz) Bertsch was born on the 4th of July in 1943 in Starkweather, ND. The family lived in various places in Vern's growing up years and he graduated from Rapid City High School with the class of 1961. To earn some money, Vern worked at the Rapid City Hospital in maintenance and there earned the nickname "Doc."

He was certified in Auto Body Repair at a school in Denver, Colorado. Vern's brother was living in Devils Lake, so Vern got a job at Powell Motor Company in Devils Lake. Although the Ford dealership changed hands many times, Vern remained for 40 plus years. At the time of his retirement, he had been the Ford Body Shop manager for many years.

LaVern was united in marriage to his precious Phylis Winnege on June 25, 1966, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. They lived, worked, and raised their family in Devils Lake through the years. They were blessed with 58 years of marriage.

Vern was passionate about cars and trucks. He loved classic cars, hot rods, if it had 4 wheels he loved it. He never bought a new car, he would always find a good, wrecked car, totally fix it up to be like new and that was the family car.

When he wasn't working on cars he enjoyed bowling, camping, and fishing. Vern was a dedicated life member of the Devils Lake Volunteer Fire Department. He spent many hours training in his younger years and in retirement so enjoyed visiting with past and present volunteers.

The loving family, Vern leaves behind include his wife Phylis, daughters and their spouses Tammy and Shannon Miller, Arizona, Cindy and Jon Unger, Tower City, ND and Shannon and Todd Lang, Harwood, ND; eight grandchildren Brittany (Tudor) Gheorghiu, Bethany (Mitchell) Richard and Kaytrina (Robert) Scott-Krystal (Nathan) Munter-Braden Lang, Christopher (Amanda) Lang, Cassie Lang and Chelsey Lang; ten great grandchildren Clare, Sophia, Quinn, Rowan, Maximus, Jayce, Ava, Eian, Mila and Emyrx; sister Ileen Farmer, Rapid City, SD; brother-in-law Ronald W. Winnege, Devils Lake; many nieces, nephews, cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Darla Bertsch, granddaughter LaRissa Unger, siblings Albert Bertsch, Katherine Geske and Shirley Wolf.

Remembering With Love



Vern

A GOOD MAN

**A good man never dies--
In worthy deed and prayer
And helpful hands, and honest eyes,
If smiles or tears be there:
Who lives for you and me--
Lives for the world he tries
To help--he lives eternally.
A good man never dies.
Who lives to bravely take
His share of toil and stress,
And, for his weaker fellows' sake,
Makes every burden less,--
He may, at last, seem worn--
Lie fallen--hands and eyes
Folded--yet,
though we mourn and mourn,
A good man never dies.**



In tears we saw you sinking
and watched you fade away.
Our hearts were really breaking
but we could not make you stay.
God watched you as you suffered
He knew you had your share.
He tenderly closed your weary eyes
And took you in His care.
But when we saw you sleeping
Peacefully free from pain.
We could not wish you back
To suffer that again.
Our hearts still ache with sadness
And the secret tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you
Only God will ever know.
To the place of rest we wander
Where we say a little prayer.
No one knows the heartache
As we turn and leave you there.

*Our Treasured Husband, Dad, Grandpa,
Great Grandpa, Brother, Uncle, Dear Friend*

LaVern Joseph Bertsch

July 4, 1943 ~ July 14, 2024

ROSARY AND SCRIPTURE SERVICE

Gilbertson Funeral Home Chapel

Devils Lake, North Dakota

Thursday, July 18, 2024 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Reverend Mr. Ken Severinson, Deacon. Officiating

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Devils Lake, North Dakota

Friday, July 19, 2024 ~ 2:00 p.m.

CELEBRANT

Reverend Michael Schommer

SPECIAL MUSIC

Patty Cote and Marla Luehring, Vocalists

Patty Cote, Organist

LECTOR

Carla McKelvey

GIFT BEARERS

Brittany Gheoraghiu, Sophie Gheoraghiu, Jessica Bertsch

CASKET BEARERS

Braden Lang ~ Chris Lang ~ Nathan Munter

Scott Bertsch ~ Trevor Bertsch ~ Andrew Bertsch

EARTHLY PLACE OF REST

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

Devils Lake, North Dakota

FIREFIGHTERS HONORS

Firefighter's Prayer, Fire Chief, Nate Bennett

Final Alarm

Members of the Devils Lake Volunteer Fire Department