

We little knew that morning God was going to call your name;
In life we love you dearly; in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories; your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one the chain will link again.



“The beautiful irony is that our loss is another’s reunion—
and oh what a reunion it is!”



IN LOVING MEMORY



DAVID GRATZ

1934-2024



David Gratz, 89, passed away unexpectedly July 25 at Sanford Hospital, after suffering a major stroke.

David was born October 23, 1934, to Steve and Rose (Kautzman) Gratz on a farm north of St. Vincent's, living there until the age of 17 when he moved to Mandan and worked as a bell boy at the Lewis & Clark Hotel. On November 5, 1957, he married Eileen Schmidt, and they were very Blessed with many wonderful years, although not long enough. David served in the ND National Guard from 1954-1958. He worked for Dakota Bottling Company before beginning a very fulfilling career with ND Concrete Company, where his self-taught skills earned him much respect throughout his career. He was known to be the toughest boss while on plant property, but everyone's best friend when the job was done! He retired from ND Concrete after 37 years in 1997; however, as he always needed to be busy and was a very social person, he worked part-time for about 13 years at Weigel Funeral Home and Buehler-Larson Funeral Home. His fun sense of humor definitely helped each of us to not be fearful of life beyond this earth. His kind heart has been our rock.

David is survived by his wife of 67 years, Eileen; his children Reyne (Dave) Helfrich; Steve (Jane) Gratz; Laurie (Tom) Pfliger; Pattie (Paul) Feller; and Darren (Denise) Gratz. His Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren: Tyler (Brittany, Paysen, Suttin, Colter); Elisha (Zack, Waylon); Travis (Lacy and Baby); Jared; Emily (Maliyah, Kobin, Haizlee); KyLee (Derrek, Taten, Collin, Brooks); Tara (Chris); Justin (Kaysee); Jaden; Jennifer (Preston); Skylar; Laken; Kenley and Brityn. The love for these kids could not be measured, but always rewarded with ice cream or tootsie rolls! Along with this crew, he also had several special "adopted" kids (you all know who you are) – thanks for loving him the way we did.

He also leaves three sisters: Lillian Rennich, Bernice (Emanuel) Geiger; Jeannie (Jim) Fitterer; Sister-in-laws: Clem Meyer and Vivian Erhardt and brother-in-law Reynard (Joletta) Schmidt. Many nieces and nephews, all of whom he never forgot.

David was preceded in death by his son, Darvin; great grandson, Kingston; his parents; mother-and-father-in-law, George and Rose Schmidt; his sister, Carol; brother-in-laws, Norman Meyer, Connie Erhardt, Frank Rennich and Bob Radmer. He always talked about his countless friends who have gone before him, so we imagine a reunion of much joy! We find comfort in knowing he and Darv are together again.

Parish Vigil Sunday | July 28, 2024 | 4:00 PM
Weigel Funeral Home | Mandan, ND
Presider Deacon Randy Frohlich
Funeral Liturgy Monday | July 29, 2024 | 10:30 AM
St. Joseph's Catholic Church | Mandan, ND
Celebrant Fr. Waltz
Musicians Regina McLain & Gene Mosbrucker
Prelude "The Ol' Rugged Cross"
Processional "How Great Thou Art"

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Lector Tara Helfrich
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 23
"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."
New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13-17, 5:1
Lector Laken Gratz
Gospel Reading John 14:1-6
Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song "Be Not Afraid"
Presentation of Gifts Kenley | Brityn | Suttin | Kobin | Collin | Maliyah
Paysen | Waylon | Taten | Brooks | Colter | Haizlee
Eucharistic Prayer
Communion Songs "I Am The Bread Of Life"
"Hail Mary, Gentle Woman"
Communion Meditation
Final Commendation "Song Of Farewell"
Recessional "Amazing Grace"

Pallbearers

Tyler | Travis | Jared | Justin | Jaden | Zack | Derrek | Laken | Tara
Elisha | Emily | Skylar | Kylee | Jennifer

Graveside Service

Mandan Union Cemetery

*After the burial, the family invites you for lunch
and fellowship at the Mandan Eagles Club.*

1400 Collins Ave | Mandan, ND.