



# Curtis Zearley

MARCH 27, 1949 ~ DECEMBER 2, 2020

*Please take solace in the following parable . . .*

*"I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails  
in the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength*

*and I stand and watch her until at length, she's only a ribbon of white cloud*

*just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then,*

*someone at my side says, 'There! She's gone!' "Gone where? Gone from my sight --- that is all.*

*She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side,*

*and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination.*

*Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says,*

*'There! She's gone!' there are other voices ready to take up the glad shout,*

*'There! She comes!' And that is dying."*

Col. David Marcus

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## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CURTIS ZEARLEY



### **Committal Service**

Friday, August 27, 2021; 12:00 PM

**Military Honors Provided by Mandan Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post #1326**

**Immediately following the burial service, the family invites you to join them at Mandan Legion Park Shelter #1 & Warming House, south Mandan near the golf course. A catered lunch and drinks will be served with live accordion old time music as entertainment.**



**Curtis William Zearley**, 71, passed away December 2, 2020, at Sanford Medical Center due to long-standing health issues and complications related to COVID.

Curt was born in Bismarck on March 27, 1949, to Miner and Violet (Thorp) Zearley and resided in the Bismarck-Mandan area his entire life. He enlisted during the Vietnam War and served as a Navy Seabee from 1968-1970. He married Linda Schmidt on September 15, 1972, and had three children. He was employed at Burlington Northern Railroad for 20 years and later became a Millwright in the 1990's.

He loved to travel and was always planning his next trip. He loved to talk about his time in Alaska, Hawaii, and he even traveled back to Vietnam. Although he primarily lived his adult life in Mandan, he always yearned to farm. We thank the Schmidts for welcoming him onto their farm and letting him live out his dream.

Curt is survived by his wife, Linda, one daughter Biana (Bob) Smolich, Arlington, VA, two sons Ryan and Ross, Mandan. His mother, Violet, and one brother, Clifford (Tammy), Mandan. Two sisters, Marcie (Tom) White, Mandan, and Sharon Johnson (Mark Koenig), Flasher. Two sisters-in-law, Janice (Tom) Haggert, Detroit Lakes, MN, and Nancy Zearley, Bismarck.

Curt was preceded in death by his father, Miner, and two brothers, Doug and Jeff.

The family of Curt would like to extend their gratitude to family, friends, and neighbors for their comforting expressions of sympathy shown to us in many ways. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and genuine acts of kindness and assistance.