

Rudolph "Rudy" Henry Rath was born on March 5, 1925, in Eldorado Township, Stevens County, Minnesota to James and Catherine (Gorgan) Rath. He attended country school through the eighth grade east of Herman. Rudy stayed on the farm to help his father while his brothers went into the military. At the age of 18, Rudy purchased his first farm.

While attending a dance in Donnelly, Rudy met Shirley Towner. Rudy was united in marriage to Shirley on October 1, 1946, at the Federated Church in Morris. The couple was blessed with five children and lived on a farm 6 miles north of Herman. The family farmed corn, wheat, soybeans and raised cattle. Rudy also sold agriculture equipment and seed. He manufactured Rath Snowblowers for 30 years out of his shop on the farm. Rudy loved taking his equipment to farm shows at the State Fair, FarmFest and was one of the first 5 exhibitors at Big Iron in Fargo. In 1983, their son, Paul, took over the farm and Shirley and Rudy moved into Morris. They moved to Alexandria in 1995, to enjoy the life on Lake Latoka. Rudy and Shirley enjoyed 35 years of wintering in Arizona.

Shirley died in 2014, and Rudy continued his wintering in Arizona. He became involved in a men's bible study and a billiards group. When Rudy was in Alexandria he loved attending the bible study at Cullen's Home Center. Rudy had a love of sweets and desserts, so he taught himself how to bake pies, brownies and monster cookies.

Rudy was involved in the Knights of Columbus, National Farmers Organization (NFO) and the National Cattlemen's Association. Shirley and Rudy helped start the Ridge Rider Saddle Club and the Monaco Motor Coach Club, who became like an extended family to them as they enjoyed going to rallies and traveling together for 40 years. Rudy and Shirley also enjoyed traveling to dances and Polka Fests. The family enjoyed annual camping trips to National Parks. Rudy loved to work, had a passion for and devoted his life to farming. He also loved horses and going to rodeos.

Rudy died Monday, July 2, 2018, at Bethany On The Lake in Alexandria at the age of 93 under the care of Hospice of Douglas County. He is survived by his children, Sandra Rath (Richard Grammer) of San Diego, CA, Paul (Jane) Rath of Norcross, MN, Patricia (Lowell) Nelson of Hancock, MN, Julie (Donald) Larson of Blaine, MN, and Connie (Daryl) Amundson of Alexandria, MN; 12 grandchildren: Warren Johnson, Chris (Micah) Rath, Angie (Danny) Huseth, Mike Rath, Jessica (Tyson) Bartell, Erik (Bre) Nelson, Amy (John) Sand, Clint (Janice) Larson, Gavin (Sarah) Larson, Cole (Heather) Amundson, Brady Amundson, and Blake Amundson; 16 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Irene Rath of Morris; and many nieces and nephews. Rudy is preceded in death by his parents, James and Catherine; siblings, Margaret Wirtjes, Emil Rath, Leo Rath, Leona Stowe, Marcellus Rath, Emma Asmus, and Elsie Schuman.

Memorials are preferred to Hospice of Douglas County or the Church of St. Mary in Alexandria.



Close The Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down
and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the
tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard, but your
faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace. The fences
have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and
always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here
on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life, often
a jagged a stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded, and here
now is the end of your day.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin; the
stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by blessed
rain one final time
You always believed that the good Lord would provide
and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down, no more
sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven; no more
must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will
close the gate.

Nancy Kraayenhof

In Loving Memory

Rudolph "Rudy" H. Rath

March 5, 1925 † July 2, 2018

Mass of Christian Burial
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Tuesday, July 10, 2018
11:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Father Steve Binsfeld

Casket Bears

(Rudy's Grandchildren)

Warren Johnson	Chris Rath
Angie Huseth	Mike Rath
Jessica Bartell	Erik Nelson
Amy Sand	Clint Larson
Gavin Larson	Cole Amundson
Brady Amundson	Blake Amundson

Honorary Casket Bearers

(Rudy's Great-Grandchildren)

and The Men's Wednesday Morning
Bible Study Group at Cullen's Home Center

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota




Anderson
FUNERAL HOME

659 Voyager Drive NW ~ Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone: 320-763-5900 ~ www.AndersonFuneral.net