

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 and 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 and 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 persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours."

So God made a farmer.

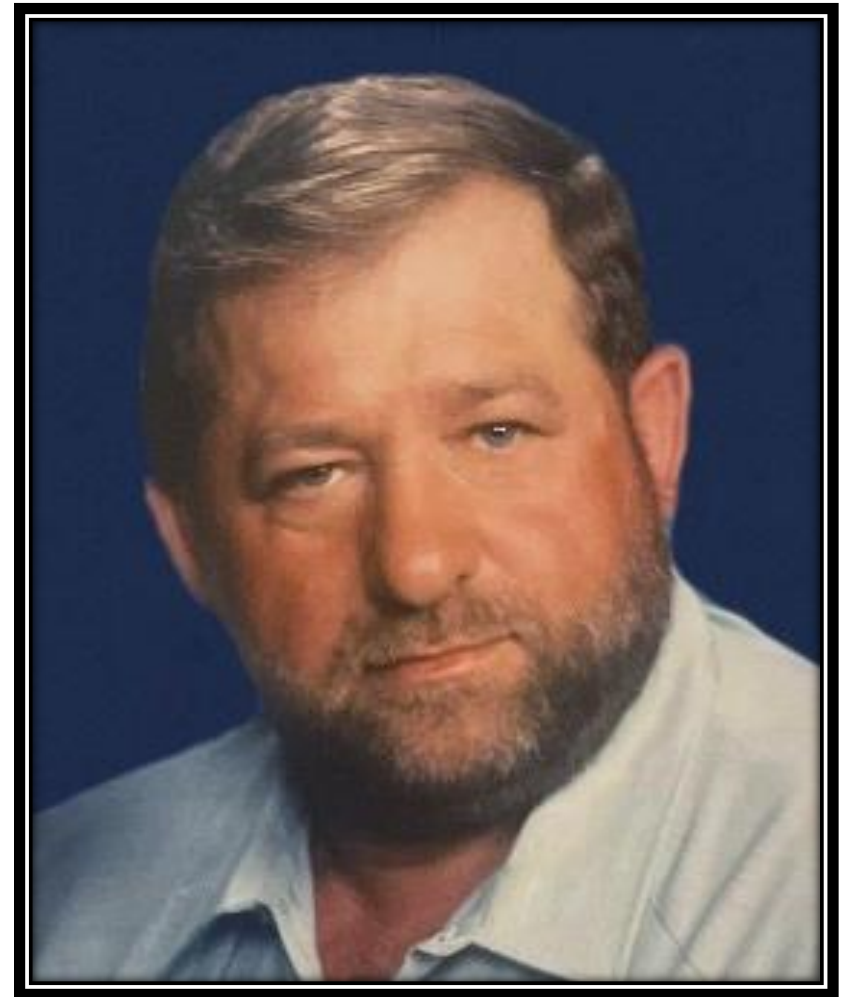
God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.

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'd 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 he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'"

So God made a farmer.



In Loving Memory Of

Pete Oknoi

1949 - 2023

Roman "Pete" August Okroi was born on September 23, 1949, on the family farm in Kosciusko Township. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grenville. Roman attended parochial school in Grenville and later graduated from Roslyn High School in 1967. After his education he joined the United States National Guard and served for two years before enlisting in the United States Navy on September 10, 1968. Pete was honorably discharged on August 27, 1970. On July 3, 1971, he met the love of his life, Donna Gaikowski at a dance in Grenville. The couple married January 13, 1973, at Immaculate



Conception Catholic Church in Waubay. They made their home in Waubay and then Roslyn for a short time before settling on the Okroi family farm near Pickerel Lake. The couple had a dairy operation, raised stock cattle, and were also engaged in grain farming. Pete served on the Kosciusko Township board for many years. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Pete was also a member of the Henning-

Shemanski American Legion Post 267 for 50 years. Pete and Donna enjoyed traveling to the southwest in winter months. Donna passed away in November 2021 and Pete continued living on the farm. Pete passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at the age of 73 years, 4 months, and 15 days. Pete will be forever loved and greatly missed by his four children: Jeannie Huber of Sisseton, SD, Roman "Jon" Okroi of Halstad, MN, Kristi (Troy) Zoellner of Groton, SD, and Steven (Elizabeth Schulz) Okroi of Pierre, SD, 18 grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He also leaves behind siblings, Deloris Lardy of Webster, SD, Deb (Terry) Morrill of Roslyn, SD, and Diana (Mike) Jones of Belle Fourche, SD. He is also survived by three brothers-in-law: Dean Gaikowski, Duane Gaikowski, Robert Kriech, all of Waubay, SD; and three sisters-in-law: Janet (Wayne) Bartelt of Waubay, SD, Ramona (Gary) Youell of Webster, SD, Pat Okroi of Sioux Falls. He will also be missed dearly by his canine companion, Sophie. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, Donna; one brother, Julian Okroi; and one sister, Donna Huggett-Schmidt.



Celebrating The Life Of **Pete Okroi**

September 23, 1949 - February 7, 2023

Mass Of Christian Burial

10:30 A.M. Friday, February 17, 2023
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Grenville, South Dakota



Clergy

Ken Lulf

Organist

Basil Knebel

Lectors

Kristi Zoellner
Aubrey Okroi

Active Casket Bearers

Sean Okroi - Logan Okroi - Cameron Huber
Chase Huber - Roman Avery Okroi - Lukas Ekern
Easten Ekern - Jordan Zoellner - Riley Zoellner
Gracin Okroi - Hudson Okroi - Cordell Schlichenmayer

Honorary Casket Bearers

Paige Huber - Aubrey Okroi - Regan Okroi
Rylen Ekern - Brilie Schulz - Amara Schulz-Garcia
Liam Okroi - Great-Grandson

Military Spring Interment

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
Grenville, South Dakota
Military Honors: Henny-Shemanski Am. Leg. Post # 267