



I Am The Resurrection

*Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
shall never die."
—John 11:25,26*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Wendell Conrad Hanson

WHO WAS BORN
April 10, 1935
Graceville, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME
September 19, 2024
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE
Wednesday, September 25, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
New Life Community Baptist Church
Ortonville, Minnesota

OFFICIANT
Pastor Phillip Ostlund

MUSICIANS
Lynda Ostlund, Pianist
Casey Haukos, Special Music

CASKET BEARERS
Jasmine Leach | Breana Larsen | Brody Scheff | Bronson Scheff
Cody Haukos | Garth Haukos | Jason Beutler | Jamie Beutler

HONORARY BEARERS
Amanda Neubauer | Casey Haukos | Justin Beutler | Jordan Beutler

MILITARY HONORS
American Legion Gertje Van Lith Post #229
Big Stone City, South Dakota

INTERMENT
Artichoke Lake Seventh-Day Adventist Church Cemetery
Rural Ortonville, Minnesota

APPRECIATION
Wendell's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply
appreciated. Following the service, please join the family
for lunch and fellowship at the church dining hall.

Mundwiler & Larson Funeral Home - Ortonville, Minnesota

Wendell Conrad Hanson was born on April 10, 1935, in Graceville, MN, to William and Clara Hanson. He grew up on the west side of Artichoke Lake, where he developed a love for the outdoors and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His early years were challenging as the country emerged from the Great Depression, and he spent much of his youth working hard alongside his father and brother Charles on the family's 400-acre farm. All the work was done by hand and with horses, but despite the hard labor, Wendell's childhood was also filled with fun. He enjoyed swimming, boating, ice fishing, ice skating, and hunting ducks and pheasants.

Wendell attended a one-room country school and later went on to study at Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson, MN, where he graduated in 1953. Following high school, Wendell pursued a degree in business at college in Lincoln, NE. After completing his studies, he served in the U.S. Army for two years in San Antonio, TX, where he taught in the medical corps' training division.

Wendell's lifelong love of guns began early, and he taught himself how to repair and restore them. After his service in the Army, he briefly worked as an accountant in Tennessee, but soon returned to Minnesota to farm and to pursue his passion for crafting black powder rifles, specifically The Plainsmen.

In 1970, Wendell met Elaine, the love of his life, and they married in 1971. With their union, Wendell gained four cherished children: Dan, Laurie, Patty, and Sandy, who he loved and supported as his own. Wendell's life was filled with many interests, his top three being guns, history, and steam engines. One of his most unique accomplishments was building his own steam-powered paddle boat, which he could often be seen cruising on Big Stone Lake, with Bluegrass music playing in the background. Wendell also loved playing his banjo and tuba in his spare time, and a ride on his Harley Davidson motorcycle was always a highlight of his day.

With his skills in gun repair, Wendell opened his own business, Northstar Arms, where he shared his knowledge and craftsmanship with others. His passion for history led him to become actively involved in the Big Stone County Historical Society. Among his proudest achievements was the preservation of The Muskegon, an excursion boat brought to the Big Stone Lake area in 1909. Wendell's dedication to saving this important piece of local history was a reflection of his love for the past.

Wendell, along with his friend Gene Howen, also built the steam boiler that continues to cook the corn at the Ortonville Corn Festival each year, a tradition that lives on to this day.

Wendell will be remembered as a kind, humble, and positive spirit. He was a man of great faith, and he spent time ministering to prisoners at the Appleton prison. Above all, he loved his Lord and Savior and found joy in serving others.

Wendell is survived by his loving wife, Elaine Hanson; his children: Daniel Beutler (Karla) of Washburn, ND; Laurel (Brian) Longhenry of Sartell, MN; Patricia (Roger) Haukos of Correll, MN; and Sandra (Greg) Scheff of Waconia, MN; and his brother, Charles Hanson of Correll, MN. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family and friends who will carry on his legacy of love and faith.

Wendell's gentle spirit, love for his family, and contributions to his community will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.



Mundwiler & Larson
Funeral Homes

