

In Loving Memory Of

Donald J. Lange was born on June 6, 1922 to Henry J. and Pauline (Minette) Lange. He was raised on the family farm east of Webster, ND which was homesteaded by his grandfather John Lange. He attended Morris #2 country school and graduated from Webster High School in May of 1940.

After working briefly in California, Donald returned to North Dakota to enlist in the Signal Corps and attended radio school in Grand Forks under the Army Specialized Training Program. In WWII he served in the 152nd Armored Signal Company in the wire section and was attached to the 12th Armored Division Army occupation in the European Theatre. There he supervised a team of men laying and maintaining wire service for telephone and telegraph systems. He was discharged as a Sargeant on February 6, 1946.

On July 10, 1946 Donald and Mary (Blessum) were united in Holy Matrimony at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Forks, ND. They made their life on the family farm and raised nine children.

In addition to farming and raising their family Donald was active on many community boards: Morris Township Clerk (1946-1966), Toastmasters (1965-1968) where he made several contest talks, Lake Region Junior College Trustee (1967-1976), State Farmer's Union Vice President (1968-1972), Farmer's Union Oil Co. Board Member (1967-1988) and the State Board of Vocational Education (1970-1981). Donald and his wife, Mary, were Associates of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, signing their covenant in 1988. In June of 1993 Donald joined the Odd Fellows. Many people in Devils Lake will remember him as the pancake dinner ticket peddler, some people buying tickets even though they didn't like pancakes!

Donald and Mary enjoyed travelling, gardening and living on the farm through their retirement. They volunteered with Meals on Wheels for many years. Not only did they deliver meals, often accompanied by grandchildren, they brought joy and blessings to the people they served. Donald especially enjoyed working with wood and tried his hand at everything from bag dryers to picture frames to bookcases. He is especially known for his small tables and chairs. He will be fondly remembered for his many projects that adorn the homes of most family members and several friends. After Mary's passing Donald moved to Eventide Court #3 where he enjoyed visiting with many familiar folks. The last year of his life he was cared for by the wonderful staff at Eventide Heartland Care Center.

Donald is survived by his nine children, Thomas (Gail) Lange, Fredericksburg, VA; Stephanie (Pat) Scott, Bismarck, ND; Daniel (Jane) Lange, Gibson City, IL; Barbara Christianson, Boise ID; Arthur (Lori) Lange, Astatula, FL; Mary Rubi, Chandler, AZ; Sister Elaine Lange, Valley City, ND; Andrew Lange; Webster, ND and John (Jodi) Lange, Webster, ND. He is also survived by his brother Gerald (Alice) Lange, Sioux Falls, SD, sisters-in-law Marge (Henry) Lange, Devils Lake and Anne MacIntyre (Duane) Lange, Helena, MT and half-sisters Joan Adkins, Colorado Springs, CO and Judy (Joseph) Kaluzny, Lakeland, FL. Donald and Mary were blessed with 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild all of whom survive him.

Donald is preceded in death by his parents Henry J. and Pauline, his wife Mary, brothers Edmund, Lawrence (Lindy), Norbert (Marge), Ralph (Margie), John (Anita), Henry, and Duane and his sister Mary Margaret (Ray) Hubbuch.



Don Lange

So God Made A Farmer

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, 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 wrestle 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, then 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; who, planting time and harvest
season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and 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 would 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 that he wants to spend his
life “doing what dad does”— so God made a Farmer.

By Paul Harvey

*Our Beloved Dad, Grandfather, Great Grandfather,
Great Great Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, Dear Friend*

Donald Joseph Lange

June 6, 1922 ~ August 27, 2024

ROSARY, SCRIPTURE SERVICE AND TIME OF SHARING

Gilbertson Funeral Home Chapel

Devils Lake, North Dakota

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Led by Reverend Mr. Ken Severinson, Deacon

Scripture read by Drew Lange Music by Cameron Scott

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Devils Lake, North Dakota

Wednesday, September 5, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

CELEBRANT

Reverend Bernard Pfau

MUSIC

Kevin Regan, Soloist

Kyle Ternes, Organist and Pianist

LECTORS

Christopher M. Lange and Greg Lange

GIFT BEARERS

Don’s Granddaughters

Jordin Hermanson, Kate Lange, Skylar Bailey, Nadine Kassner

Honorary Gift Bearers, Tammy Coon, Nicole Morford and Jessica Lange

CASKET BEARERS

Don’s Grandsons

Christopher M. Lange ~ Dustin Lange ~ Cameron Scott ~ Neal Scott

Matthew Schmitt ~ Jacob Lange ~ Christopher J. Lange ~ Drew Lange

Honorary Casket Bearer, Jack Christianson

WHEAT BEARERS

Don’s Great Grandchildren

Trevor, Breanna, Coty, Damon, Matthew, Adam, Dakota, Addison,

Eve, Xavier, Eva, Zachary, Jackson, Lydia, Braxton, Letti,

Zander, Oliver, Madison, Harper, and Emmitt

EARTHLY PLACE OF REST

Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery

Rural Webster, North Dakota

MILITARY HONORS

Accorded by the Neathery-Simensen Post #756

Devils Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars

North Dakota Military Funeral Honors Team-Army