

# " So God Made a Farmer"

by Paul Harvey

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 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, 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.

## *Celebrating* THE LIFE OF



*Your Life gave us memories too beautiful to forget*

# Richard "Dick" Paulsen

January 25, 1929 - April 11, 2024





**Richard "Dick" William Paulsen** was born on the family homestead to William and Emma (Hagedorn) Paulsen on January 25, 1929 in Pipestone, Minnesota. After his graduation from Pipestone High School in 1946, he worked on the family farm. He entered the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Germany during the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a Corporal. On April 10, 1956, he was united in marriage to Barbara Hjermstad at St. Leo Catholic Church. Following their marriage, they lived on the home farm where he farmed and raised his family for 63 years. In 1996, they started to "Snow-bird" their winters in Mesa, Arizona. In January 2021, they moved to Ridgeview Estates in Pipestone, Minnesota. On October 1, 2023, he transitioned to the Pipestone County Hospice House. On April 11, 2024, he joined Barbara in Heaven at the age of 95.

In High School Dick was known as the "educated farmer" and started his farming occupation at 16 years of age. He was a member of the National Honor Society and awarded as FFA State Farmer. He later became a member of the National Farmers Organization (NFO). He served on the Advisory board for First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Peavey Grain Elevator Board, a past president of the Pipestone High School Band Board, and a member of St. Leo Catholic Church in Pipestone.

When not farming, Dick had many other interests. He and Barbara would spend time with friends going dancing and card clubs. He enjoyed music and singing so loudly that he could be heard across the farmyard. He always kept up with the news and hosted the RFD channel. He had a love for all animals especially his cattle and German shepherds. One of the highlights of every year was watching his grandkids show cattle at the fair. Dick was a voracious reader, finishing a book in a day, and would read every newspaper or magazine he could get his hands on.

He is lovingly remembered by Three children, Patricia (Morey) Van Hoecke, Pamela Paulsen, and Carrie (Mark) Hiniker, all of Pipestone, Minnesota; Son-in-law, Tom Szyman; eight grandchildren, Bill (Emily) Van Hoecke, Chrissy (Jeff) Debates, Richie (Laura) Szyman, Kim (Drew) Ongstad, Emma (Luke) Tinklenberg, Chelsey (Brad) Hillard, Brooklyn, and Aiden Hiniker; and eleven great-grandchildren, William and Matthew Debates, Carson and Trevin Van Hoecke, Josephine and Charlotte Szyman, Jaycee and Walker Ongstad, Reese and Laramie Hillard, and Kasen Tinklenberg. He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara; daughter, Vanessa Szyman; Son, Steven Paulsen; parents, William and Emma, and his brother, Robert Paulsen.

# In Loving Memory of Richard "Dick" Paulsen

**Mass of Christian Burial**  
St. Leo Catholic Church  
Monday April 15, 2024 - 10:30 AM

## **Celebrant**

Msgr. Gerald Kosse

## **Music**

**Organist** - Carol Haubrich

**Cantor** - Kevin Paulsen

## **Lectors**

Will Debates    Matt Debates

## **Congregational Hymns**

"How Great Thou Art"                      "On Eagles Wings"  
"Amazing Grace"                      "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory"

## **Scriptures**

Revelation 21:1-8    1 John 3:20-21

Matthew 5:1-12a

## **Honorary Urn Bearers**

Will Debates                      Matt Debates                      Carson Van Hoecke  
Trevin Van Hoecke                      Jaycee Ongstad                      Walker Onstad  
Josephine Szyman                      Josephine Szyman                      Reese Hillard  
Laramie Hillard                      Kasen Tinklenberg

## **Urn Bearers**

Bill Van Hoecke                      Chrissy Debates                      Richie Szyman  
Kimmy Onstad                      Emma Tinklenberg                      Chelsey Hillard  
Brooklyn Hiniker                      Aiden Hiniker

## **Interment**

New Woodlawn Cemetery - Pipestone, Minnesota

Arrangements By  
**HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME**  
[www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com)