

# *Celebrating the Life of Charles J. Bata Jr.*

*May 25, 1929 - October 20, 2019*

Charles J. Bata Jr., 90, of Kensal, N.D., died Sunday, October 20, 2019, in Grand Forks.

Charles was born on May 25, 1929, the son of Charley and Alvina (Pitra) Bata. He married Jane Holmen on June 12, 1954. They were married for 65 years at the time of his death.

Charles served in the U.S. Army from April 1953 through October 1954. After being discharged, he and Jane returned to Kensal to work with his father on the family farm. The farm, located seven miles northwest of Kensal, was home to the couple until they moved to Grand Forks in February.

They had two children, Janet (Greg) DeVillers and Jeff (Shelley) Bata.

The family farm was Charles' passion. When he wasn't working the fields, repairing machinery or tending to cattle, Charles loved attending auction sales (the John Deere brand was his preference) and talking farming with his brother, Gary, and his brothers-in-law. He enjoyed playing cards and attending his children's and grandchildren's school activities. He was an active member of St. John's Catholic Church, where he served on the building committee, and was on the Bucephalia Township Board for 26 years.

He is survived by his wife, two children and their spouses; grandchildren Missy (Joey) Miedema, Brian DeVillers, Carrie (Mike) Riske, Stefanie (Todd) Geatz, Brandon (Alicia) Bata, Brittany (Shane) Primeau and Nick Bata; and great-grandchildren Mariah and McKinley Bata, Charlie and Maggie Miedema, Jack and Ian Riske, Max, Zach and Gabby Geatz and Asher and Everett Primeau. He also is survived by sisters JoAnn Somsen, Jamestown, Frances Dahl, Cooperstown, and Helen Schlotman, New Rockford, and sister-in-law Doreen Sutterfield, Springfield, Mo.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, brother Gary, sisters Rose Somsen, Arlene Page, Val Bata and Maxine Baker, sister-in-law Mildred Bata and brothers-in-law David Somsen, Obert Somsen, Ralph Schlotman, Clifford Dahl, Marion Baker and Jerry Page.



## *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 and 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 yes, Dad...we will close the gate.

By Nancy Kraayenhof

## **GRANDPA'S BOUQUET**

**Charles J. Bata, Jr.**

*One Magnificent Rose*

*God was ready...it was you he finally chose.*

*2 Roses...for your children*

*7 Carnations...for those kids who call you "Grand"*

*11 Daisies...for the kids who call you "Great"*

*Baby's Breath...for the Great-Grandchildren not arrived yet to date*

*Someday we will all meet at God's heavenly gate*

*In our hearts you'll always live*

*Because of your love, support, and kindness unknowingly you did give*

*God Bless you Charles, Chuck, Dad, Grandpa, Great-Grandpa Charlie,*

*Smile down upon those who love you here below.*

*Much love forever,*

*Your family*

### **Children**

**1 Pink Rose** ~ Janet Bata DeVillers

**1 Yellow Rose** ~ Jeff Bata

### **Grandchildren**

**4 Pink Carnations** ~ Missy Miedema ~ Carrie Riske

*Stefanie Geatz ~ Brittany Primeau*

**3 Blue Carnations** ~ Brandon Bata ~ Nick Bata ~ Brian DeVillers

### **Great-Grandchildren**

**4 Yellow Daisies** ~ Maggie Miedema ~ Gabby Geatz

*Mariah Bata ~ McKinley Bata*

**7 White Daisies** ~ Charlie Miedema ~ Jack Riske

*Ian Riske ~ Max Geatz ~ Zach Geatz*

*Everett Primeau ~ Asher Primeau*

In Loving Memory of

## **Charles J. Bata Jr.**

May 25, 1929 - Kensal, ND

October 20, 2019 - Grand Forks, ND

### **PRAYER SERVICE**

Friday, October 25, 2019 ~ 7:00PM

St. John's Catholic Church, Kensal

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

Saturday, October 26, 2019 ~ 1:30PM

St. John's Catholic Church, Kensal

### **OFFICIATING**

Fr. Sean Mulligan

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Kathy Johnson ~ Organist

Congregational Hymns

*Be Not Afraid #443, Amazing Grace #451, One Bread, One Body #349*

*Song of Farewell #852, On Eagle's Wings #448*

### **HONORARY BEARERS**

Missy Miedema ~ Brandon Bata ~ Brittany Primeau ~ Stephanie Geatz

Brian DeVillers ~ Carrie Riske ~ Nick Bata

### **MILITARY HONORS**

U.S. Army Military Honors Team

### **BURIAL**

Kensal Cemetery

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home - Carrington & New Rockford, ND

[www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com](http://www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com)