

Phil was born on January 2, 1945 to John and Elsie Schafer in New Rockford, ND. He attended St. James Academy until 8th grade and graduated high school from St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, MN. He attended Wahpeton Short Course and North Dakota State University before returning to the family farm. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Linda Lill, on November 27, 1965. For almost 57 years, they worked side by side building a life, legacy and carrying on the 4th generation of Rhein Valley Farms.

Phil was an active member of the Elks in Devils Lake, Eagles in New Rockford, North Dakota Stockmen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Wells County Water Board, Wells County Soil Conservation Supervisor, Wells County Better Seed and Grain Board, New Rockford Rural Fire Dept. Board Member. At St. Joseph's Catholic Church, he served as a Parish Council Member and taught religion classes. Phil and Linda were the recipients of the Wells County Harvest Bowl award in 1991.

Phil spent his whole life in production agriculture and livestock. His strong faith guided him through these times. He embraced technology changes and appreciated some more than others (heated cabs for winter morning chores). His infectious smile and sense of humor was loved by all he touched. He was a role model for work ethic, determination, responsibility, and positive attitude.

Above all, he adored his wife and family. Phil spent hours playing cards and dice with his family and passing on the tradition. In his younger years, he spent a lot of time on horseback. His love of horses was passed down through the generations. Phil and Linda could often be seen going for ranger rides to check pastures and crops. Punctuality was important to Phil. He could often be heard saying that the bus is leaving whether you're ready or not. Phil was the entire family's biggest cheerleader and best storyteller.



Phil was a man with a big, strong heart. We witnessed that as he battled health challenges, and the last one called him home. Phil died on October 25, 2022 surrounded by family at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd in New Rockford, ND. We will forever miss the wonderful husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa but will cherish his wings from above.

Phil is survived by his loving wife, Linda; children: son Jeff (Leann) Schafer, New Rockford, ND; daughters Brenda (Dean) Krogen, West Fargo, ND; Pam (Todd) Johnson, Fargo, ND; DeeAnn (Eric) Bock, Belfield, ND; grandchildren: Chelsey (Kyle) Erdmann, Colten Schafer, Corey Schafer, Stephanie (Blake) Krueger, Lindsey Krogen, Elizabeth Krogen, Isaac Johnson, Emma Bock, Eli Bock; great-grandchildren: Kade, Karsyn, Kooper Erdmann, Baby Krueger Jan. 2023; and sister Phyllis (Frank) Rausch, Kalispell, MT. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Elsie Schafer and grandparents.

Family would like to thank Dr. Geier and his staff, the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, Hospice, and Evans Funeral Home for their love and care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Rural New Rockford Fire Department or St. Joseph's Catholic Church Cemetery.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Philip "Phil" Schafer

JANUARY 2, 1945 - OCTOBER 25, 2022



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. ~ Paul Harvey



Celebrating The Life Of *Philip "Phil" Schafer*

January 2, 1945 – New Rockford, ND

October 25, 2022 – New Rockford, ND

VISITATION

Friday, October 28, 2022

Evans Funeral Home 1:00PM - 5:00PM

St. John's Catholic Church 6:00PM - 7:00PM

New Rockford, ND

ROSARY & VIGIL SERVICE

Friday, October 28, 2022

Rosary 6:40PM

Vigil Service 7:00PM

St. John's Catholic Church, New Rockford, ND

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Saturday, October 29, 2022 ~ 10:30AM

St. John's Catholic Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Fr. Reese Weber & Deacon Bart Salazar

SPECIAL MUSIC

Heather Klocke

Kerstin Allmaras ~ Violinist

Katie Allmaras & Debbie Omoth ~ Vocalists

LECTOR

Chelsey Erdmann & Corey Schafer

PALLBEARERS

Chelsey Erdmann ~ Colten Schafer ~ Corey Schafer

Stephanie Krueger ~ Lindsey Krogen ~ Elizabeth Krogen

Isaac Johnson ~ Emma Bock ~ Eli Bock

BURIAL

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, rural Bremen, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND

www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com