

Alan Willyard, age 91, died Thursday, September 7, 2023, at CHI St. Alexius Health in Carrington with his son by his side.

Alan N. Willyard was born on September 9, 1931, at home in Melville, ND, the third son of Warren and Edythe (Zink) Willyard. He attended a one-room country school through the 8th grade, before coming to Carrington, ND for high school. He graduated from high school with academic honors and was the Athlete of the Year in 1951.



Alan married Cynthia Olson in 1951 in the Federated Church, Carrington. Together they were blessed with four children: Pamela, Bruce, Jay, and Staci. After working for Eldo Lee, he started his own Excavating business, which he owned and operated for 37 years. His son Bruce worked with him and has continued operating the business even after Alan retired.

Alan liked hunting and fishing and taught his grandsons about the sport. He enjoyed golfing, even accomplished a hole-in-one, and was one of many who helped build CrossRoads Golf Course in Carrington. He also loved to bowl with family and friends and was a part of many leagues over the years. He was the Chamber President for many years, President of the old Foster County Wildlife Club, a member of the Jaycees, the hospital board that built the new hospital, and on the Federated Church Board.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; children, Pamela (Jack) Kutz, Sykeston, ND, Bruce (Michelle) Willyard, Carrington, ND and Staci (Terry) Miller, Hettinger, ND; eight grandchildren, Audra Mehl, LaNae Weber, Quenton Kutz, Jennifer Willyard, Sarah Morze, Marie Willyard, Grant Miller, Cole Miller; eleven great-grandchildren; a brother Jim (Mary) Willyard of Anoka, MN.



Alan is preceded in death by his parents, Warren and Edythe; one son, Jay; one grandson, Mitch Miller of Hettinger, and four brothers Edward, Wells, George, and Jerry.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Alan Willyard

SEPTEMBER 9, 1931 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

The Dash Between

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on his tombstone
From the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came his date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years. (1931 - 2023)

For that dash represents all the time
That he spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved him
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
How other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy's been read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

Celebrating The Life Of

Alan Neil Willyard

September 9, 1931 - Melville, ND
September 7, 2023 - Carrington, ND

VISITATION & PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Visitation 1:00PM - 7:00PM
Prayer Service 7:00PM

Evans Funeral Home, Carrington, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
10:30AM

Federated Church UCC/UMC, Carrington, ND

OFFICIATING

Pastor Rick Loewen

MUSIC

Clara Edwardson ~ Organist
Audra Kutz-Mehl ~ Soloist
Amazing Grace ~ On Eagle's Wings

Congregational Hymn

God Will Take Care of You #47
How Great Thou Art #4

PALLBEARERS

Grant Miller ~ Terry Miller ~ Troy Willyard
Cole Miller ~ Bruce Willyard ~ Warren Willyard

BURIAL

Carrington Cemetery, Carrington, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home - Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com