

Michael “Mike” was born on May 25, 1931, to Peter and Johanna (Burkhartsmeier) Kuntz in Devils Lake, ND. He grew up in Southam, ND and graduated from high school in Doyon, ND in 1949. After graduation he attended Mayville State Teachers College until he joined the National Guard Unit of the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. His unit was activated on January 15, 1951, and was stationed at Camp Rucker, AL. His unit was deactivated the same year. He came back home and married the love of his life Mary Ann Rice on April 11, 1953, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Doyon. He graduated from Mayville State Teachers College in 1955 and was hired to teach in Leeds, ND. In 1956, Mike was hired as the high school principal in Leeds. He attended summer school at UND and received his master’s degree in 1960. He went on to be hired as Superintendent of Schools in Badger, MN, Ada, MN, and Jackson, MN. He retired in 1994, finishing a 40-year career in education. He prided himself on never having to apply for a job. In 1998, Mike and Mary moved to a lake home on West McDonald Lake near Dent, MN. They loved living on the lake and enjoyed spending time with family, neighbors, and friends. Mike lived at his lake home until 2020. He was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in July 2020 and in December he moved to Elim Shores Senior Living Community, Eden Prairie, MN to be closer to his children who became his caregivers. Mike passed away peacefully, with his family at his side after a courageous battle against cancer on November 24, 2024.

Mike was a kind, gentle soul who loved his family and friends. He was very proud of his children, their spouses and grandchildren; they were all very special to him. He was a good conversationalist and enjoyed sharing stories past and present. At the lake he was often found sitting in his chair out front so he could do just that. He was a man of strong faith and a very generous man, generous with his time, talents, and money. He loved all sports, his favorites being golf, hockey, baseball, and basketball. He played basketball at Mayville State and was an avid golfer. He was also active in Kiwanis and a member of the Minnesota State High School League board.

Michael is survived by his daughter Lisa (Jeff) Molenaar, Eden Prairie, MN; son Michael (Barb) Kuntz, Eden Prairie; son-in-law Bruce Link, Bismarck, ND; six grandchildren Daniel, Carly, and Matthew Molenaar, Eden Prairie, Sarah and Meghan Kuntz, Eden Prairie, and Kyrie Link, Rochester, MN; brothers Ray Kuntz and Jacob “Jake” Kuntz, Devils Lake, ND; sisters Mary Dahlen, Grand Forks, ND, Janet Mertens, Devils Lake, and Theresa Kuntz, Wellington, CO; sisters-in-law Adele (Gordon) Spidahl, Dent, MN and Merilyn Rice, West Fargo, ND; along with many nieces, nephews and their families.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents; wife Mary Ann; daughter Michelle Link; brother Edward Kuntz; sister Evelyn Olsen; brothers-in-law Wayne Rice, Charles Mertens, and Bill Dahlen; and sister-in-law Helen Kuntz.

# *Celebrating* T H E L I F E O F



*Michael Peter Kuntz*

May 25, 1931 - November 24, 2024

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path **God** laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call

I turned my back and left it all  
I could not stay another day

**To laugh, to love, to work or play**  
Tasks left undone must stay that way

I found that peace at the close of the day  
If my parting has left a void

Then fill it with remembered

*Joy*

A friendship shared,  
a laugh, a kiss Ah, yes, these things I too will miss  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow

I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life has been full, I've savored much  
Good friends, good times,  
*a loved one's touch*

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief

Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wanted me now, He set me **FREE!**

## **Memorial Service**

Calvary Lutheran Church  
Perham, Minnesota

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

### **Officiant**

Pastor Erin Bovendam

### **Musicians**

Russ Bunker  
Lisa Peterson

### **Sharing of Memories**

Grandchildren

### **Tribute**

Lisa Molenaar

### **Readers**

Barb Kuntz  
Dan Molenaar  
Bruce Link

### **Urn Bearer**

Dan Molenaar

### **Interment**

Calvary Memorial Cemetery  
Perham, Minnesota