

Eugene Hager passed away at his home near Ottertail, MN on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Gene was born on July 13, 1946 and grew up on the family farm near Barney, ND. He was the first born of Bernard and Irene (Johnson) Hager.

On October 26, 1974, Gene and Patricia Long, Berlin, ND, were united in marriage. Gene spent the majority his life farming with his two brothers, LeRoy and David, near Barney. In 2000, Gene and Pat moved to Washburn, ND where they started a new adventure in the form of a craft and antique store. After selling the store they bought a small farm, went fishing, and enjoyed the next twenty years.

If you had the pleasure of getting to know Gene, you'd soon learn that what you see is what you get. Gene was kind to all who crossed his path, honest, had a great sense of humor and his ready smile won him many friends. Gene was barely 24 when suddenly he was the male head of the family. But as was Gene's nature, he led his four siblings and mother with a steady hand through the tragic loss of their father, and husband Bernard. Gene was blessed to have a spouse that he could depend on and loved with all his heart. Gene's favorite pastime, besides giving Pat a hard time, was restoring and collecting vintage tractors. Gene's passion for life and ready smile were with him throughout his life, even when the end was near his smile warmed a room. "Rest In Peace My Good and Faithful Servant."

Gene leaves behind his wife of almost 50 years, Patricia of Ottertail; sons Anthony (Marissa) of Algona, IA and Matthew of Fargo, ND; Gene's beloved grandson Braxton Eugene; his mother Irene Hager of Barney; brothers LeRoy (Jackie) Hager of Battle Lake, MN and David Hager of Barney; sisters Sharon (Joel) Dotzenrod of Battle Lake and Paula (John) Grettum of West Fargo, ND; his mother-in-law Christina Long of Berlin; and numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

Gene was preceded in death by his father Bernie.

Gene's family is incredibly grateful for the care given by Knute Nelson Hospice.

# Eugene Bernard Hager



July 13, 1946 - April 18, 2024

## **So God Made a Farmer**

Speech by Paul Harvey

And on the eighth 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 field, 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 wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild...somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for 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 a harness out of hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. Who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his 40-hour week by Tuesday noon and then, painin' from tractor back, put in another 72 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 bales, yet gentle enough to yean 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 meadowlark."

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and brake, and disk, 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 5-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 that he wants to spend his life doing what Dad does.

So God made a farmer.

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### **Memorial Mass**

Tuesday, April 23 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

St. John's Catholic Church  
Wyndmere, North Dakota

#### **Officiant**

Father Troy Simonsen

#### **Accompanist**

Jennifer Manstrom

#### **Cantor**

Melissa Quam

#### **Interment**

St. John's Catholic Cemetery  
Wyndmere, North Dakota