

*Phillip Messer* was born February 8, 1929 in Richardton, North Dakota to Phillip and Barbara (Martin) Messer. He grew up on the family farm south of Richardton and attended country school through the eighth grade. He worked on the family farm alongside his dad until he met Betty. The couple married May 22, 1951 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Richardton. Together, Phillip and Betty made their home on a ranch south of Richardton along the Beaver Creek. It was there they raised their children and continued to make their home. In his younger years Phillip was a member of a band and enjoyed playing the accordion and organ. He was known to be a man of integrity. Phillip was a member of the Lions Club, Zoning Board, Stark County Weed Control, Knights of Columbus, Richardton School Board for 26 years and Richardton Health Care for 41 years. He also served on the Medcenter One board of directors, and was selected as farmer/rancher of the year by the Soil Conservation. He was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and Richardton Saddle Club. Phillip always had a lesson to teach, especially to his grandchildren. "He was a man who led by example. He had his priorities straight; faith, family, farming and ranching. He believed in making a difference and not just being a bystander but taking part in his community and everyone's community. Always smiling, had a joke and loved bigger than any man I know. A great dad, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather and great-great-great-grandfather." Phillip is survived by her children, Barb Ruhland of Watkins, MN, Pat (Lyndia) Messer of Cromwell, MN, Randi Messer Schaeffer of Bismarck, ND, Mark (Carol) Messer of Richardton, Jerome "Jerry" (Deb) Messer of Richardton, Fritz (Karen) Messer of Cheyenne, WY, Vickie (Wade) Entze of Golden Valley, ND, Margie (Aron) May of Glenwood, MN,

Greg (Dori) Messer of Richardton, Tina Akins of Cheyenne, WY, and Scott (Lisa Scott) Messer of Richardton; siblings, Barbara (Eleanor) Hoff of Richardton, Aurillia Reed of TX, and Setona Gartner of Germany; 43 grandchildren and 78 great-grandchildren, with several on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Barbara Messer; wife, Betty; sons-in-law, Larry Ruhland and Christopher Schaeffer; brother-in-law, Robert Schmalenberger; grandson, Jason Ruhland; great grandson, Gabriel Olson; grandson-in-law, Todd Lundquist; and siblings, Sally, Lina, Hellen, Paul, Ralph, George, and Tony.

# Phillip Messer

February 8, 1929 - December 12, 2019







# PEARLS OF WISDOM

BY: BETTY MESSER

MAY WE TREAT ONE ANOTHER WITH RESPECT,  
HONESTY, AND CARE, FOR THAT IS THE ONLY WAY  
WE WILL EVER GROW TOGETHER.  
MAY WE SHARE THE LITTLE DISCOVERIES AND  
CHANGES THAT EACH DAY BRINGS,  
REMEMBERING THAT EACH ONE OF US HAS SOME-  
THING TO SAY AND LISTENING IS  
IMPORTANT TOO. MAY WE TRY ALWAYS TO BE  
SENSITIVE TO ONE ANOTHERS JOYS, SORROWS,  
NEEDS AND CHANGING MOODS AND REALIZE  
THAT BEING A LOVING FAMILY MEANS SOMETIMES  
NOT UNDERSTANDING EVERYONE ALL THE TIME  
BUT BEING THERE TO LOVE AND HELP THEM JUST  
THE SAME AND TRYING TO TREAT  
ALL EQUAL AND FAIR EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKE THAT AT TIMES.

## PHILLIP MESSER

### FUNERAL MASS:

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 9:30 a.m.  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Richardton, North Dakota

### ROSARY & VIGIL SERVICE:

Monday, December 16, 2019 6:00 p.m.  
Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota  
Rosary: Deacon Bob Stockert

### CELEBRATING:

Father Thomas Wordekemper, OSB

### READER:

George Wald

### MUSIC:

Barb Bemis  
Jay Hepperle

### GIFT BEARERS:

Barb Ruhland	Randi Schaeffer
Vicki Entze	Margie May
	Tina Akins

### PALLBEARERS:

Pat Messer	Mark Messer
Jerome Messer	Fritz Messer
Greg Messer	Scott Messer

### INTERMENT:

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery  
Richardton, North Dakota

### ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota

*Lunch will be served at St. Mary's Social Center  
following the graveside service.  
Everyone is welcome.*

