

Gordon Lowell was born September 27, 1938 in Richardton, son of Roland and Opal (Poppe) Vaagen. He grew up on a farm 13 miles North of Taylor, one of eight children. Gordon attended country school and public school in Taylor, graduating in 1956. He was baptized and confirmed at Ridgeway Lutheran Church. On December 6, 1961, Gordon was drafted into the US Army at Fort Riley, Kansas and then transferred to Ft. Hood, Texas 1st Armored Division (Old Ironsides). He was honorably discharged in 1963 as a SGT E-5. Gordon met his future wife Patty in Taylor, on Halloween night of 1964. He was challenged by friends to ask her to dance, and they continued dancing together for the next 55 years. The couple was engaged by Christmas 1965 and married on June 27, 1966 at St. Mary's Church in Richardton. Their marriage was blessed with four children: Kirsten, Emory, Reid, and Dawn. Together they made their home in Taylor where Gordon served as a Post Master from August 1967 to his retirement in June 1998. He took great pride in farming with his father North of Taylor until 1978. In retirement, Gordon worked for Price-Murphy Funeral Home and later for Stevenson Funeral Home. Gordon cherished his time together with his family and especially his grandkids. He enjoyed cooking and reading cookbooks. Gordon was a fantastic neighbor, always willing to lend a hand. He was often known as a jack of all trades. Music was a very important part of Gordon's life. He was a member of the ND Council on the Arts and became an apprentice and master violin maker. He proudly made a violin for each of his children. Gordon also founded the old timer band called The Friday Nite Gang, and was a member of the Roughrider Barbershop Chorus. Although he was never formally trained, he was incredibly musically inclined and could make music with nearly any instrument. Gordon was an active member of Taylor Lutheran Church and served on the church board. He also served as a city councilman in Taylor and was a member of the Richardton Ambulance Service, American Legion Post 180, and Elks Lodge 1137. Gordon is survived by his wife, Patricia of Dickinson; children, Kirsten (Ty) Fuglseth of Fertile, MN, and their children, Kennedy Fuglseth, Madison (Michael) Tate, Britton Fuglseth, and Dawson Fuglseth; Emory (Deb) Vaagen of Taylor, ND and their children Carly (Blaine) Lawrence, Gabe Vaagen, and Olivia Vaagen; Reid (Denise Brossart) Vaagen of Gladstone, and his children Mack Vaagen, Mason Vaagen, and Finnly Vaagen; and Dawn (Allen) Pritchard of West Fargo, ND and their children Alanna Pritchard and Gabby Pritchard; sister, Enola Lambeff of Lewistown, MT; and sister-in-law, Mardella Vaagen of Miles City, MT. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roland and Opal Vaagen; brothers, Merle (Marlys), Lyle (Norma), Marvin, Sam, Bob, and Gary.



Gordon Vaagen

September 27, 1938 - November 20, 2020





THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end. He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them 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 still can be rearranged.

To 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 is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?



Gordon Vaagen

FUNERAL SERVICE:

Friday, November 27, 2020 1:00 pm
Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

OFFICIATING:

Reverend Bob Nordvall
John 14: 1-6

MUSIC:

Soloist: Britton Fuglseth
Jealous of the Angels
Waltz with the Angels
When I'm Gone

READERS:

Terry Steckler Charlie Pugh
Carly Lawrence Carol Gjermundson

PALLBEARERS:

Mack Vaagen Gabe Vaagen
Dawson Fuglseth Finnly Vaagen
Michael Tate Mason Vaagen

INTERMENT:

Monday, November 30, 2020
North Dakota Veterans Cemetery
Mandan, North Dakota

ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

Following the funeral service, there will be an open house at the Taylor Opera House from 3-5 pm. Everyone is welcome. Those attending are required to wear masks.