

John Herman Terfehr of Osakis died unexpectedly from a motor vehicle accident on Saturday, July 9, 2022. He was 78 years old. That age though, was nothing but a number. John truly lived life to the fullest. He made each year, and each day, count.

God broke the mold when John was born on July 30, 1943, to Norbert and Margaret Terfehr of West Union. John's life started like most Catholic boys in the area at the time. He was baptized, confirmed and served as an altar boy at St. Alexius Catholic Church in West Union. The life of the second oldest of four children was off to a pretty traditional start.

From that point on, the ride was wild. John attended District 5 Country School in West Union Township. It was there that he developed a natural skill for math – he could add and multiply quicker than most could get the answer from Siri –, he had a surreal understanding of words – which would lead to a love of crossword puzzles – and he had a true gift for storytelling – he knew at least 2,000 jokes. By memory. Dozens for any occasion. Especially the PG-13 variety.

After graduating from the Morris Ag School, John and some buddies started racing cars. He was good at it. He liked the competition, but he loved the camaraderie the most. Working on the cars wasn't as much fun as racing them, but the time spent doing it was part of a work ethic that John carried out his entire life.

It was at this time that John started farming, like his dad, and would continue to work the fields of Todd County for most his life. He loved, loved, loved farming. Despite visiting all 48 continental U.S. states, John always said that if he could live anywhere in the world it would be exactly where he spent his 78 years – central Minnesota. He loved everything about the land, the fields, the crops and the seasons (even the cold one!), as his hobbies matched perfectly with this part of the country.

Along with farming, John also drove truck and owned and operated John Terfehr Trucking, Inc. in Osakis for more than two decades.

During retirement (yeah, right), he enjoyed a variety of leisure activities, most notably tractor pulls. He competed in pulls across the state, partnering with his close friend Dennis Christianson to collect wins at multiple weight classes. Along with tractors for pulling, John had a vast collection of antique tractors, which he also would annually enter into the West Union 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. In addition, John spent hours and hours aboard his snowmobiles and his 3-wheel trike that he loved to ride on a beautiful summer day with his best buddy, his dog, Jax, always at his side. John and Jax were inseparable.

John's other passions were cooking (his specialties were fantastic!), sleeveless shirts (no one had more), cards (gin rummy, skit, slap jack, and his favorite, Crazy 8), and above all else, his grandchildren. He loved them. Half those sleeveless shirts had prints of his granddaughters and grandsons on them. Family mattered more and more and more and more to John with each passing year. That was evident with how much he boasted about each and every one of the family members he leaves behind.

John is survived by his daughter, Kristine Hawkins of Blaine, and son, Doug Terfehr of Frisco, Tex. Kristine and husband Patrick, and Doug and wife Crissy, blessed John with six grandchildren: Elizabeth, Katherine, Rebecca, Landon, Taylor and Ty. John is also survived by his former wife, Jerry Terfehr of Lodi, Calif., the mother of Kristine and Doug, former wife, Jan Aoun of Mesquite, Tex., older sister Joyce Klimek of Osakis and younger brother Mark Terfehr of Dayton, Minn. He was preceded in death by his parent, his sister, Susan Engle and a nephew, Todd Engle.

## *Remembering the Life of*



## *John H. Terfehr*

## *1943 ~ 2022*

## *Letting Go*

*The Angels gathered near your bed,*

*So very close to you.*

*For they knew all of the things*

*that you were going through.*

*I thought about so many things,*

*I tightly held your hand,*

*Oh, how I wished that you were*

*Strong and healthy again;*

*But your eyes were looking homeward*

*To a place beyond the sky,*

*Where God will hold you always,*

*It was time to say goodbye:*

*I struggled with my selfish thoughts*

*For I wanted you to stay*

*So we could walk and talk again,*

*Like we did – just yesterday:*

*But God still knows what's best*

*And I knew God loved you so*

*So I gave to you life's greatest gift:*

*The gift of letting go.*

*In Loving Memory*

## **John Herman Terfehr**

July 30, 1943 † July 9, 2022

### **Mass of Christian Burial**

St. Alexius Catholic Church

West Union, Minnesota

Monday, July 18, 2022, 11 AM

### **Officiant**

Father Greg Paffel

### **Organist**

### **Soloist**

*Phyllis Grandchildren*

Monte Mounsdon

Chad Anderson

Jason Mounsdon

Christy Schmitz

Sheri Semanek

Jeremy Mounsdon

Jennifer Engle

### **Inurnment**

St. Alexius Cemetery

West Union, Minnesota

**ROY-HETLAND**  
FUNERAL HOME

BURIALS • CREMATIONS • GATHERINGS

