

Bill was born September 29, 1949, in Mitchell, SD to Edward and Lola (Rossman) Martin. He grew up in Rapid City, SD until the age of 16 when the family moved to the farm in Ft. Thompson, SD, where his dad put him on a tractor and said “go”. Bill graduated from Chamberlain High School in 1967. He went to Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, SD and graduated with an Associate Degree in Auto Mechanics. He continued his education, taking Vocational Teacher Education for two years. At that point, his dad asked him to come back to the farm where he resided until he retired. After selling the farm in 2006, he designed a home and had it built “up on the hill” in Chamberlain, SD, where he and Miki have enjoyed their retirement.

Bill farmed 800 irrigated acres and maintained a 500 head cow-calf herd for many years. He served on the Buffalo County Commission, the FSA Committee, he was the President of the NW Irrigation District, a delegate to the SD Irrigation Organization, and a member of the SD Corn Growers and Soybean Association. He was the recipient of numerous “Highest Yield” awards over his farming career.

Bill married Michele “Miki” Dahl on April 27, 1974. They had two children, Marcy and William Jr. “Will”. Bill was very proud of his family and attended all their activities, whether he enjoyed them or not. Bill’s family was the most important thing in his life.

Bill enjoyed softball, bowling, golf, boating, fishing, hunting, and just generally spending time with his friends and family. He was known for his sense of humor and his ability to lean over the back of a pickup and talk for hours on end.

Bill passed away Thursday April 7th, 2022, at Ava’s House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with his family at his side.



Bill is survived by his wife Miki Martin, his daughter Marcy (Glen) Drew, their children Tatum and Austin, his son Will Martin Jr., his niece Deanna (John) Nelson, her son Michael Thomas, and many other family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents Edward and Lola Martin, his sister Sharyn Stanton, her husband Darrell, and numerous aunts and uncles.



In Loving Memory of

William E Martin Sr

1949 - 2022

So God Made a Farmer

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 fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the Farm Bureau.

So, God made a farmer.

I need somebody with strong arms to wrestle a calf, yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry and have to wait until his wife is done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies come back soon.

So, God made a farmer.

God said, I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a new born colt and watch it die and then dry his eyes and say maybe next year. I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout and shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire. Who can make harness out of a hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. Whose planting time and harvest season will finish his 40 hour week by Tuesday noon. Then, with the pain from tractor back, he will put in another 72.

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, and yet gentle enough to wean lambs and pigs and tend the pink combed pullets. And who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark.

So, God made a farmer.

It had to be somebody who would plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard weeks work with a five mile drive to church. Somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing. Who would laugh, then sign and reply with smiling eyes... When his son says he wants to spend his life doing what Dad does!

So, God made a farmer.



In Loving Memory of

William E. Martin Sr.

September 29, 1949 – April 7, 2022

Funeral Service

*United Church of Christ, Chamberlain, SD
2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 23, 2022*

Officiating

Rev. Jim Oleson

Music

Bob Brown – Guitarist Donn & Nancy DeBoer

Honorary Bearers

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Russ Christensen</i> | <i>Mick Zeman</i> | <i>Glenn Priebe</i> |
| <i>Bob Preston</i> | <i>Kevin Swenson</i> | <i>Jim Preston</i> |
| <i>Bob Brown</i> | <i>John Preston</i> | <i>Jeff Buche</i> |
| <i>Ted Petrak</i> | <i>Dick Keifer</i> | <i>Jim Swenson</i> |
| <i>Steve Riss</i> | <i>Gary Lester</i> | <i>Les Riss</i> |
| <i>Jack Friedel</i> | <i>Michael Thomas</i> | <i>Rick Moore</i> |
| <i>Glen Drew</i> | <i>Rick Hargens</i> | <i>Travis Sanger</i> |
| <i>Sam Martin</i> | | <i>Pete Christensen</i> |

All His Other Friends & Family

Interment Of Ashes

*At A Later Date
Pukwana Cemetery, Pukwana, SD*

*Everyone is invited for refreshments & fellowship
in the church basement immediately following the funeral services.*