



In Loving Memory of
Ronald Eugene Hendricks

March 23, 1938 ~ September 16, 2025

Scripture/Rosary Services

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Stephan, SD
7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 25, 2025

Funeral Services

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Stephan, SD
10:00 a.m., Friday, September 26, 2025

Officiating

Father Christianus Hendriks SCJ Father Floriber Buló SCJ
Father Marius Saputra SCJ Deacon Steve McLaughlin

Music

Allan Knippling & Family

Honorary Bearers

Travis Stebbins Keith Kelsey
Kurt Kelsey Brett Abernathy
Butch Jacobsen Dale Jacobsen Doug Jacobsen
And All His Other Nephews

Special Acknowledgement

Knights Of Columbus Winner & Chamberlain Chapters

Interment

St. Placidus Catholic Cemetery, Gann Valley, SD

Everyone is invited for lunch and fellowship in the church hall immediately following the funeral service.

Arrangements By: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD

For Those I Love, For Those Who Love Me...

*When I am gone, release me, let me go -
I have so many things to say and do,
You musn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love you can only guess,
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown.
But now it's time I traveled on alone.
So grieve awhile for me if you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near -
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile, and "Welcome Home."*

Ronald E. “Ron” Hendricks, 87, of Gann Valley, SD passed away on September 16, 2025, in the pasture he loved so dearly, with his beloved wife Mary at his side.

Ron was born March 23, 1938, in Wessington Springs, South Dakota, to Ralph and Gertie (Kieffer) Hendricks. He grew up on a ranch in Jerauld County, attending a rural school through 8th grade before graduating from Wessington Springs High School in 1956. In 1961, he earned his bachelor’s degree in Animal Husbandry from South Dakota State University, where he discovered his lifelong passion for soils and grasses.

During his school and college years, Ron worked a variety of jobs, from trucking to ranch work. While at SDSU, he met the love of his life, Mary Abernathy. The two were married on June 29, 1960, beginning a partnership that lasted 65 years.

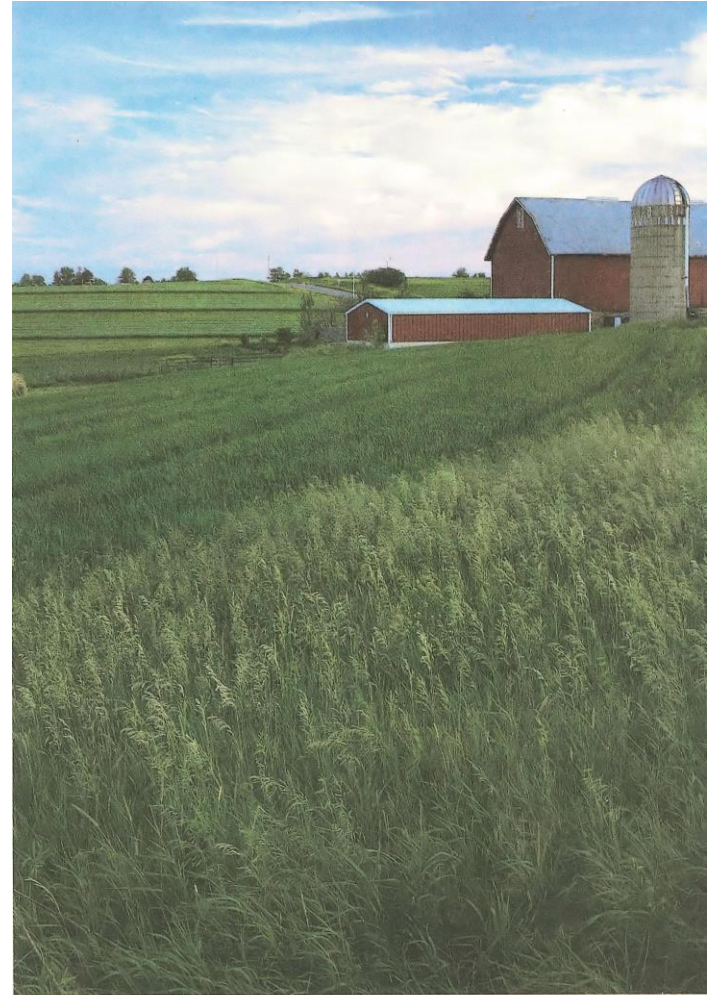
After graduation, Ron and Mary moved to Boulder, Colorado, where they built a life together and were blessed with three children. In 1964, Ron accepted a position with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a job that would become his lifelong career. Over the years, his work with SCS took the family to Walsenburg, Loveland, Pagosa Springs, Lamar, and Monte Vista, Colorado, with each new assignment a step forward in responsibility. His career also led him to positions in Oregon, Pennsylvania, New York, Maine, Nebraska, and eventually back home to South Dakota.

In 1982, Ron and Mary purchased the family ranch from Mary’s mother. Ron retired from the SCS in 1994, devoting his days to improving the land, raising cattle, and enjoying the ranch life he treasured. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and founder of the Grasslands Coalition.

Ron is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Tim Hendricks of Montana, and Rodney Hendricks and his partner Andrea of Pennsylvania and their children Taylor, Noah, and Bella; daughter Kim Hendricks of Tennessee and children Keith and Victoria Haydu, Shelby Haydu, Kacy Haydu, and Sydney Haydu; brother-in-law Jim Abernathy; sisters-in-law Connie Stebbins and Janet Reuer; adopted grandchildren Gabe and Levi; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Margaret; brother Donald; parents-in-law Floyd and Marion Abernathy; and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Ron was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He was known for his kindness, his love of the land, and his ability to make and keep lasting friendships. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



In Remembrance