



So God Made a Farmer

And on the 8th 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, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board"
-- *so God made a Farmer.*

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it"
-- *so God made a Farmer.*

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps; who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, and then pain'n from tractor back, put in another seventy-two hours"
-- *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 bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark."

It had to be somebody who'd 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 week's 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, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does"
-- *so God made a Farmer.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Orville Louis Hilbrands

WHO WAS BORN

May 7, 1924
Sibley, Iowa

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

August 26, 2024
Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, September 6, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Pastor Chris Davis

MUSICIAN

Sheila Dailie, Organist

CASKET BEARERS

Chad Wollschlager | Spencer Hilbrands | Cullen Pederson
Jason Settje | Roger Hilbrands | Ryan Hilbrands | Tanner Meagher

HONORARY BEARERS

Orville's Beloved Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

INTERMENT

Milbank City Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Orville's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family for lunch and fellowship at the church dining hall.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

Orville Louis Hilbrands was born on May 7, 1924, in Sibley, IA, to Louis M. and Amelia (Runge) Hilbrands. He spent his early years on a farm near Sibley. Tragically, in August 1929, his father was killed in an accident involving a bull on the family farm. Following this, Amelia, along with her two sons: Orville and Marvin, moved to South Dakota to live with her brother, George Runge, near Twin Brooks. Amelia later remarried Bert Dikstaal.

On November 27, 1954, Orville married Evelyn Thompson at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD. The couple was blessed with three children: Steven, Linda, and Jeffrey. Orville was a devoted member of the Emanuel Lutheran Church.

In the early 1950s, Orville worked with Walt Quade building quonset huts for local farmers, while continuing to farm himself. Orville and Evelyn farmed together throughout their marriage. The couple retired in 2000 and settled in Milbank. He developed a hobby of creating toy models of farm wagons. Orville also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, playing Dominoes and Farkle, doing crossword puzzles, and watching the Minnesota Twins. He was known for his ability to fix almost anything.

Orville is survived by his children: Steven (Liz) Hilbrands of Milbank, SD; Linda (Kevin Mayfield) Yates of Powell, WY; Jeffrey Hilbrands of Milbank, SD; ten grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one sister-in-law, LaVonne Schneck of Milbank, SD. He was preceded in death by his parents: Louis H. Hilbrands and Amelia Dikstaal; his beloved wife, Evelyn Hilbrands; siblings: Marvin Hilbrands, Vera Dikstaal, Earl Dikstaal; one nephew, David Dikstaal; and one great-granddaughter, Tanlie Warner.



**Mundwiler
Funeral Home**



Remembering

T H E L I F E O F



Orville Hilbrands

1924 - 2024