

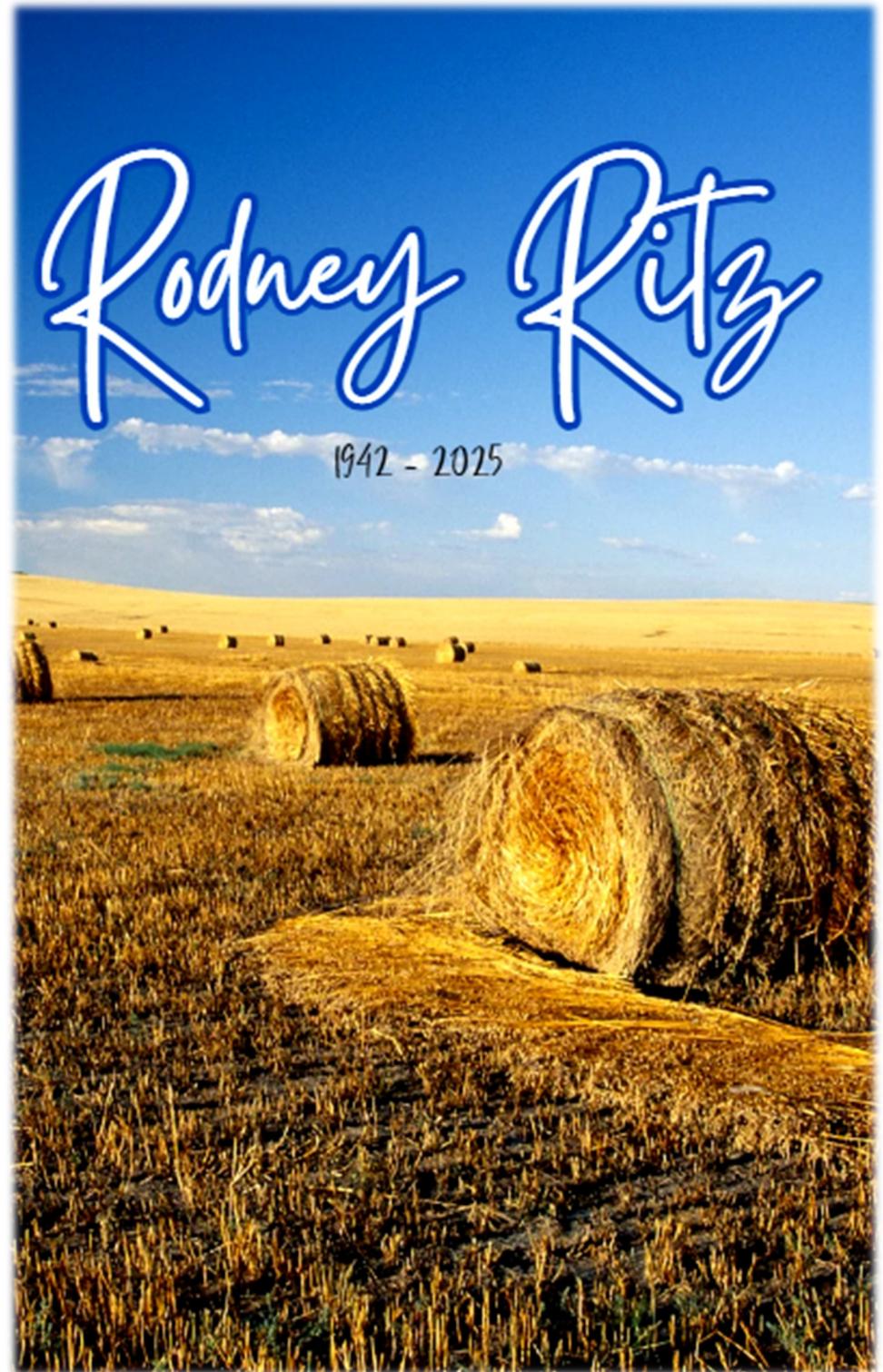
## A COWBOYS PRAYER

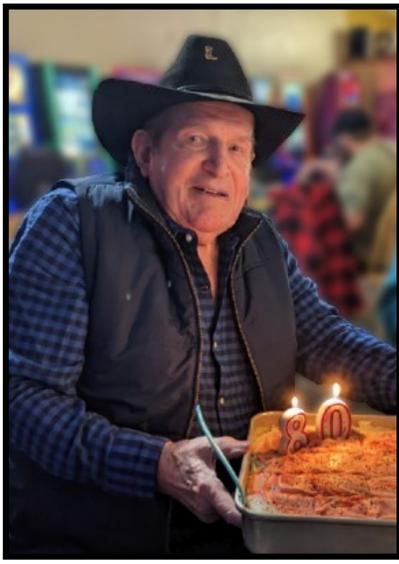
Oh Lord, I've never lived where churches grow  
I love creation better as it stood  
That day You finished it so long ago.  
And looked upon Your work and called it good.  
I know that others find You in the light  
That's sifted down through tinted window panes,  
And yet I seem to feel You near tonight  
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.

I thank You, Lord, That I am placed so well,  
That you have made my freedom so complete;  
That I'm no slave of whistle, clock or bell,  
Just let me live my life as I've begun  
And give me work that's open to the sky;  
Make me a pardoner of the wind and sun.  
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.

Let me be easy on the man that's down;  
Let me be square and generous with all.  
I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in Town,  
But never let 'em say I'm mean or small;  
Make me as big and open as the plains,  
As honest as the horse between my knees,  
Clean as the Wind that blows behind the rains,  
Free as the hawk that circle down the breeze!

Forgive me Lord, if sometimes I forget.  
You know about the reasons that are hid.  
You understand the things that gall and fret;  
You know me better than my mother did.  
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said  
And right me, sometimes, when I turn aside,  
And guide me on the long dim trail ahead  
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.





Rodney Allen Ritz, 82, New Salem, passed away May 9, 2025, at his home in New Salem.

Rodney was born December 27, 1942, to Ralph and Helga (Peterson) Ritz. He was one of five children, including brothers, Roger and Ricky, and sisters, Loann and Ann Marie. Rodney grew up on a farm 14 miles south of New Salem and graduated from New Salem High School.

After schooling, he bought a farm 6 miles northwest of Flasher. On January 18, 1964, Rodney married Sally Sardeson and together they had three children,

Kevin, Tracie, and Shauna. Rodney worked many different construction jobs in the farming off seasons all over the country including North Dakota, California, and Texas. In 1989, he and Sally divorced and Rodney moved to Flasher. He later returned to New Salem where he made his home with his partner, Cindy Klatt, and their daughter, Shila.

He is survived by his children, Kevin (Juanita) Ritz, Big Spring, TX, Tracie Ritz (Kevin Gassmann) and Shauna (Doug) Meuchel, both of Mandan, and Shila Ritz, New Salem; nine grandchildren, Nathan Ritz, Amber Ritz, Maverick Voigt, Garrick (Carly) Voigt, Cerasi Voigt, Colton (Jessica) Meuchel, Brenna Meuchel, Corbin Meuchel, and Raynna Meuchel; three great-grandchildren, Carson and Connor Meuchel and Varian Voigt; along with two brothers, Roger and Ricky; his partner, Cindy Klatt; and his ex-wife, Sally Ritz.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Helga Ritz; sister, Loann Bogart and infant sister, Ann Marie Ritz.



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## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RODNEY RITZ

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### Memorial Service

Friday, May 16, 2025; 1:00 PM  
Buehler-Larson Funeral Home, Mandan, ND

### Graveside Service

Bethel Cemetery, New Salem, ND

### Fellowship

The family invites you for food & fellowship at The Field, 506 Main Avenue, New Salem immediately following the burial service.

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