

Harlan Duane Plagge was born on March 16, 1946, in Hampton, IA, to Clarence and Clara (Tabbatt) Plagge. He was raised on a farm near Latimer, IA. Harlan was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Latimer. He attended CAL Community High School, graduating with the Class of 1964. During his school years, he excelled in athletics, particularly in track and basketball. Harlan met his high school sweetheart in kindergarten, and their lifelong love story continued as they graduated together. He went on to attend Iowa State University in Ames, earning a bachelor's degree in Animal Science.



On August 20, 1966, Harlan married the love of his life, Charlotte Helen Root, in Alexandria, IA. They made their home in Ringsted, IA, for 14 years, where they raised their four children: David, Nathan, Elizabeth, and Debra.

Harlan worked for George Hormel and Company for 20 years as a hog buyer in Ringsted, IA, and later in Montevideo, MN. He continued working for local cooperatives until his retirement. After retiring, Harlan and Charlotte moved to Big Stone Lake in South Dakota, where they enjoyed lake life and time with family.

He was a former member of the Methodist Church in Montevideo, Kiwanis, and the Barber Shop Chorus. Harlan enjoyed preparing for hunting and fishing trips, though he would admit that fishing itself wasn't always his strength. He was an avid sports fan, especially of college basketball and the Minnesota Vikings. He also loved playing cards, observing nature and wildlife, and hosting summer barbecues at the lake.

Harlan is survived by his wife, Charlotte Plagge of Big Stone City, SD; his children: David (Jennifer) Plagge of Clara City, MN; Nathan Plagge of Belmont, OH; Elizabeth Buehner of Dell Rapids, SD; and Debra Plagge of Dell Rapids, SD; his grandchildren: Isabelle, Adelyn, Sullivan, and Christopher; his brothers: Darwin Plagge of Cedar Falls, IA; and Roy Plagge of Latimer, IA; and his sister, Judy (Mark) Barnhart of Monticello, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents: Clarence and Clara Plagge; as well as his paternal and maternal grandparents.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Harlan Plagge

WHO WAS BORN

March 16, 1946
Hampton, Iowa

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

February 16, 2026
Watertown, South Dakota

HARLAN'S SERVICE

Friday, February 20, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.
Mundwiler Funeral Home
Milbank, South Dakota

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Beloved Grandchildren
Isabelle | Adelyn | Sullivan | Christopher

INURNMENT

At a Later Date
Greenwood Cemetery
Big Stone City, South Dakota

ARRANGMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home
Milbank, South Dakota

Gone Fishing

If someone should ask for me,
tell 'em heaven is where I'll be.

I've finished all my life's chores,
and now I fish on heaven's shores.

The view is grand and the fishing's great,
but I yearn for you as I wait.

I'll save a spot on the river's bend,
for all those I call family and friend.

But for now, sail out to sea,
and make a cast in memory,
to all the good times from the past,
so the memories will ever last.

And if the fish no longer bite or
seem no longer worth the fight,
because it's me that you are missin',

don't worry, be glad —

I've only gone fishin'.

David Ritter

Please use this QR Code to view
Harlan's online obituary and guestbook.



*Peaceful
Reflections...*