

*“Just a farmer”, you said,
And I laughed ‘cause I knew
All the things that farmers
Must be able to do.*

*They must study the land,
Then watch the sky
And figure just when
Is the right time and why.*

*To sow and to plant
To buy and to sell,
To get to the market
With cattle and well.*

*You know the books
That farmers must keep
To pay all those taxes
And be able to sleep.*

*And you know the fixin’
That farmers must do
When machines like mad monsters
Blow a gasket or two.*

*I guess when God needed
Folks to care for His earth
He chose “just farmers”
‘Cause he knew’ their true worth.*

Celebrating THE *Life* OF
Ralph “Toby” Maanum

JULY 23, 1928— JULY 1, 2026

Services At:

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church - Chokio, MN
Thursday, July 9, 2026 - 11:00 A.M.

Officiating Clergy:

Abby Weick

Accompanist:

Kristie Olson

Lector:

Karen Maanum

Congregational Hymns:

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”
“The Old Rugged Cross”

Urnbearer:

Charlie Maanum

Honorary Urnbearers:

Toby’s Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Military Honors:

Graceville American Legion
Jesse S. Poole Post #297

Interment:

Summit Cemetery
Morris, Minnesota

Ralph “Toby” Dennis Maanum was born on July 23, 1928 in Hoff Township, Pope County, Minnesota the son of Elmer and Cora (Garlie) Maanum. As a child, he lived in a number of places including, Hancock, Chokio, St. Louis, Coeur d’Alene, ID, Tillamook, OR, San Diego, CA and finally back to Chokio where he graduated from Chokio High School.

On November 28, 1953, Toby was united in marriage to Dorothy Keeler at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. They made their home for a short time in the area and welcomed their first daughter, LuAnn. Toby was drafted into the military shortly after. Toby went to boot camp in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Dorothy and LuAnn joined him in Virginia while Toby was receiving his training as a helicopter mechanic. Once he was done with his training, Toby, Dorothy, and LuAnn moved to Germany where Toby was stationed. In November of 1956, they returned to Chokio and purchased a farm and added to their family, welcoming four more children. In 1964, they bought their acreage near Johnson, Minnesota, and after renovations were made, they moved to that farm in 1970. Along with farming, Toby and Dorothy owned and operated DeGraff Grain, Inc. They remained on the Johnson acreage until 2019, when the couple moved into Grace Village in Graceville.

Toby enjoyed farming, antique tractors and restoring them. His adventurous spirit prompted him to build his own ultralight plane with which he made a number of “unscheduled landings”.

Toby died Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at Fairway View Senior Community in Ortonville. He was 97 years old.

Survivors include his sons: Mike Maanum of Johnson, Pat (Mona) Maanum of Johnson, and Tom (Karen) Maanum of Graceville; grandchildren: Leah (Mike) Timberlake Sullivan of St. Paul, Alexa (Joshua) Shirley of Littleton, CO, Kari Maanum of Moorhead, Riley (Brandie) Maanum of Dumont, Austin (Savanna) Maanum of Graceville, Sam (Hannah) Maanum of Johnson, Charlie (Courtany) Maanum of Beardsley, and Marlie (Christian) Elmer of Des Moines, IA; great-grandchildren: Isaac, Noah, and Sarah Timberlake, Thomas Sullivan, Jameson Shirley, Ridley, Loren, and Arlie Maanum, Everett and Lincoln Maanum, Emmitt and Cooper Maanum and Coralee and Scotlyn Maanum; step-sister, Audrey (Harvey) Amborn of Fairmont; brother-in-law, Ray Keeler of Chokio and sister-in-law, Lorraine Keeler of Two Harbors.

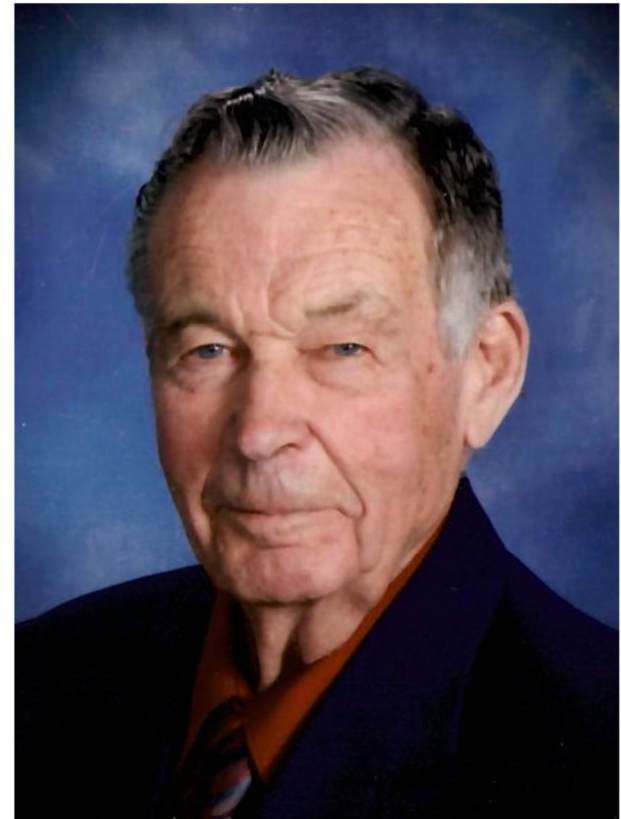
He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy (2024); daughters, LuAnn Maanum (2023) and Susan Maanum (1958); grandson, Brian Maanum; father, Elmer, mother, Cora (Bennie) Boldenow; brothers-in-law, John “Wayne” Keeler and Jim Keeler and sister-in-law, Kathy Keeler.

Please use this QR Code to access
Toby’s online guestbook and tribute video.



Pedersen
Funeral & Cremation Service

I N L O V I N G
Memory



Ralph ‘Toby’ Maanum