I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.

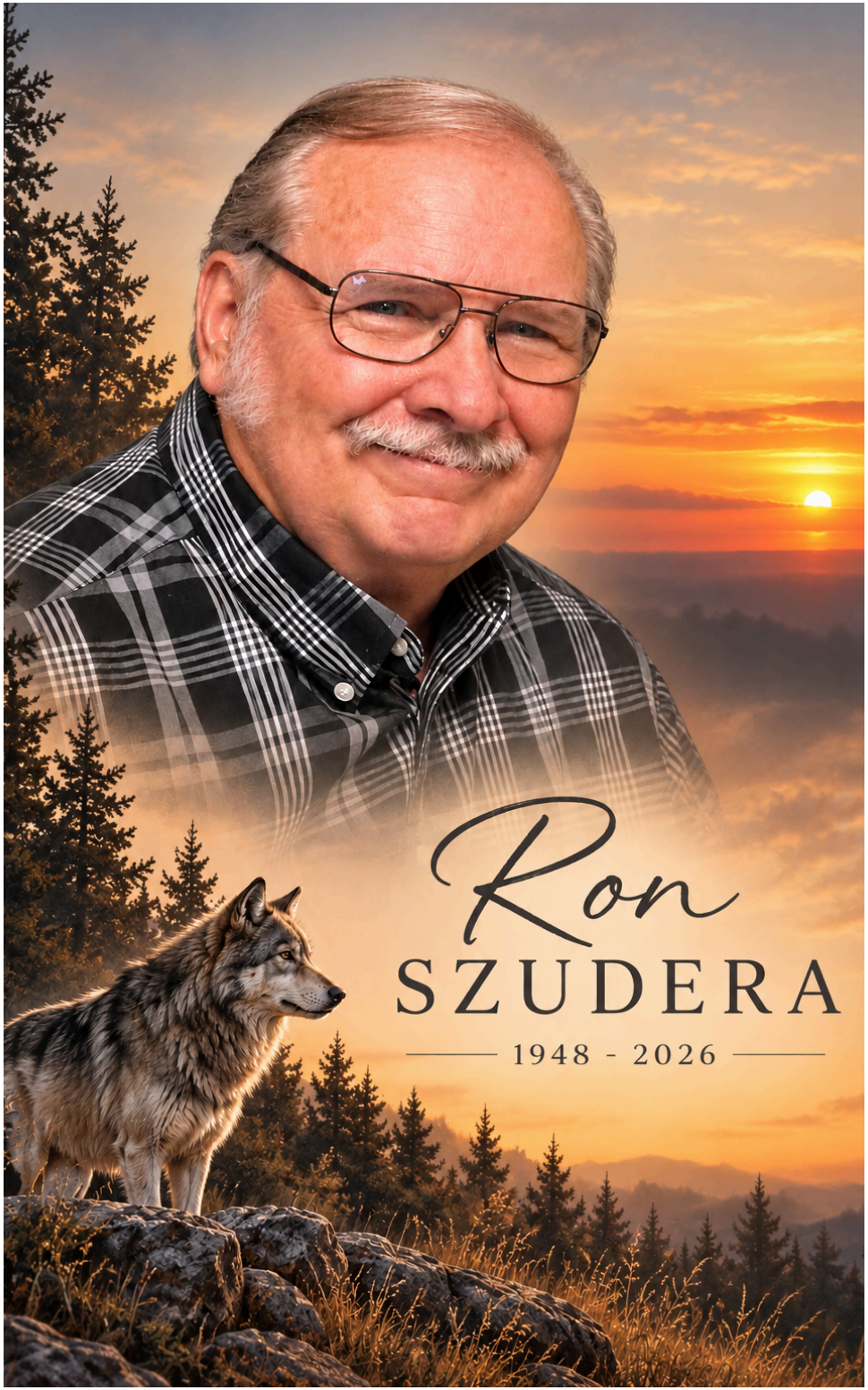
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.

– Unknown



Ron SZUDERA

1948 - 2026

Ron Szudera, age 78, of Bismarck, passed away on September 13, 2026, at his home.

Ron was born on January 9, 1948, to George and Marian (Johnson) Szudera in Beach, ND. He was raised on the family farm, learning what a hard day's work was. Ron attended the local elementary school and Beach High School where he played basketball for the Buccaneers. He graduated in 1967, and then attended Dickinson State College majoring in accounting. After college, he moved to Bismarck and that's where he met the love of his life, Charlotte Storick. Ron and Charlotte were married in 1977, and Ron welcomed his stepson, Mike, into his life. They were later blessed with their daughter, Coreen. Ron loved being a father, and his family remained one of the greatest joys of his life. He was a hardworking, kind, and giving man. Ron was blessed to become Papa to 3 grandkids and 4 great grandkids, with the latest one being born just 5 days after Ron's passing. Ron loved hunting and leather crafting in his younger years. Ron loved football and on Sundays you could find him watching the Los Angeles Rams play. He also followed the Dodgers. Ron was also a John Wayne fan and had a particular interest in Civil War history and wolves. An animal lover, Ron was known to keep treats handy for the neighborhood dogs. The strong work ethic Ron learned growing up on the family farm stayed with him throughout his life. Ron held numerous jobs including the Seven Seas Hotel, Bismarck State College, owning his own company, University of Mary, Sanford Hospital, and most recently Bismarck Motor Company. Ron will be missed by many.

Ron will be missed by his wife of 49 years, Charlotte Szudera; daughter and son-in-law, Coreen and Dan Veverka; brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Karen Szudera; sister, Vicki Erickson; grandkids, Casey Kraft (Daryian Brock), Emma Veverka, and Danika Veverka; great grandkids, Bowie, Jackson, Arabella, and baby Melanie; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; stepson, Mike Knudson; 2 infant sisters and 3 infant brothers; brother, Vernon Szudera; brother-in-law, Joel Erickson; sister-in-law, Mary Lou Bahm; and nephew, Jeff Bahm.

Funeral Liturgy	Friday, October 9, 2026; 11:00 AM Ascension Catholic Church Bismarck, North Dakota
Celebrant	Fr. Russell Kovash
Musicians	Vicki Martel & William O'Shields
Honorary Urn Bearer	Casey Kraft

Prelude	"Come, Follow Me" #500
Processional Hymn	"Here I Am, Lord" #390

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading	Wisdom 3:1-6, 9
Lector	Casey Kraft
Response	Psalm 103

"The Lord is kind and merciful."

New Testament Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Lector	Annette Curl
Gospel Reading	Luke 12:35-40
Homily	

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song	"Be Not Afraid" #439
Presentation of Gifts	Dan Veverka, Jackson Moore Bowie Yoss, & Arabella Kraft
Eucharistic Prayer	
Communion Song	"On Eagle's Wings" #441
Communion Reflection	"Jesus, Remember Me"
Final Commendation	"Song of Farewell" #812
Closing Hymn	"How Great Thou Art" #431

Private Committal Service Mandan Union Cemetery

Following the service, the family invites you to join them from 1:00-3:30 PM at Pizza Ranch, 1431 E. Lasalle Dr., Bismarck. Guests are welcome to purchase the lunch buffet and join the family for food and fellowship.