



Merlin John Halma was born January 29, 1950, to John and Ella Mae (Kuyper) Halma. He grew up on a farm northeast of Inwood, Iowa. He attended grade school in Inwood and graduated from West Lyon High School in 1968. He served in the South Dakota Air National Guard from 1968 to 1974.

On January 16, 1971, he married Kathleen Havelaar. Together they bought his uncle's farm northeast of Inwood, where they raised their family. He was a farmer for the entirety of his life. Raising cattle and hogs, and crop farming were his passion. His favorite annual event, after harvest of course, was his fishing trip to Bow Narrows Camp in Red Lake, Ontario, Canada. He was an avid fan of the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, and Wild. Merlin passed away Sunday, December 28, 2025, at Sanford Canton-Inwood Medical Center in Canton, South Dakota at the age of 75.

Merlin is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Kathy; son, Lance (Kelley) Halma of Rock Valley, Iowa; son, Loren (Mindy) Halma of Inwood; three beloved grandchildren, Patrick, Bailee, and Elizabeth; brother, Bruce (Kathy) Halma of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; nephew, Ryley (Chrissy) (and great-nephews Landon and Sam); niece, Kelly; nephew, Logan; and step-mother-in-law, Gertrude Havelaar.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Harry and Hilda Halma, and Walter and Etta Kuyper; infant sister, Suzanne Halma; brother, David Halma; parents-in-law, Cornelis and Bertha Havelaar; and sister-in-law, Julie Byre.

*In Loving Memory*  
**Merlin John Halma**  
*January 29, 1950 ~ December 28, 2025*

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

10:30 AM, Wednesday, December 31, 2025  
First Reformed Church  
Inwood, Iowa

**OFFICIANT**

Rick Rozeboom

**ACCOMPANIST**

Alisha Dammer

**POEM READING**

*"Just A Farmer"*

Read by: Patrick Halma

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

*"Go Rest High On That Mountain"*  
Vince Gill

**PALLBEARERS**

Patrick Halma ~ Jason Byre  
Wade Byre ~ Mike VerWey  
Ryley Halma ~ Logan Halma

**INTERMENT**

Richland Cemetery  
Inwood, Iowa

*Merlin's family invites everyone to the church basement for a time of food and fellowship following the services.*

## *Just A Farmer*

*"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 go 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*

*~ Helen G. Coon*



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*In Memory*