

Ronald “Ron” Dale Gehrke was born March 24, 1933, to John Paul Gehrke and Clara Elizabeth (Flickinger) Gehrke. He grew up on the family farm and attended school in Willmar, graduating in 1951. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1953, serving as an airplane mechanic. He was awarded the National Defense Medal and the Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1957. He was a member of the Spicer American Legion for over 50 years.

Ron was united in marriage to Carolyn Lee (Tostenson) Gehrke on June 21, 1969. Ron and Carolyn raised four daughters and farmed at their home in Spicer, MN, raising Great Danes, hogs, cattle, and crops. Ron worked as a mechanic at Halvorson’s in Spicer, Schwanke’s Tractor and Truck in Willmar, and Jennie-O in Willmar. Ron and Carolyn were members of Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar.

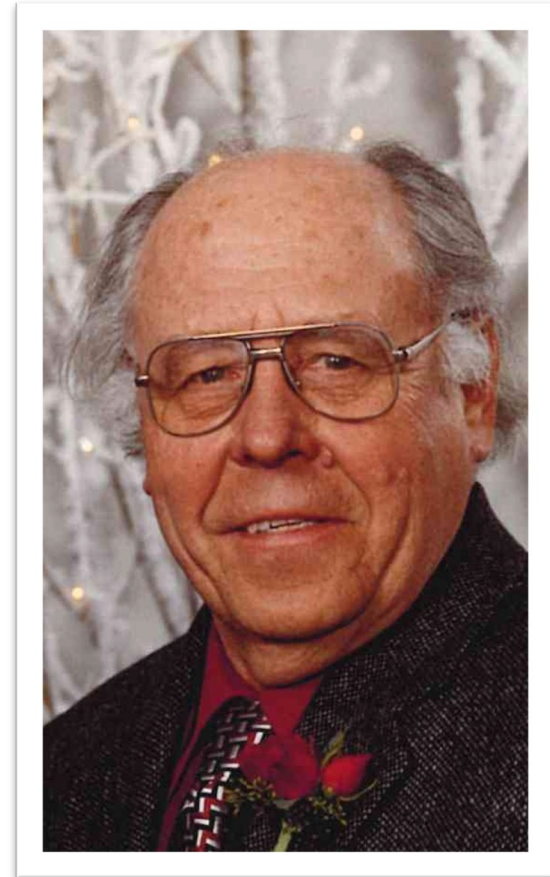
Ron was always ready with a story, a word of advice, or to lend a hand. He could fix anything, had a solution for every problem, and was ready for a cup of coffee at any time. In retirement, he continued farming and working on equipment, enjoyed helping his family with projects, and made sure his grandsons were growing up right.

Ron passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, May 26, at the age of 93.

Ron is survived by brothers Ralph Gehrke and Amil Gehrke, daughters Margaret (Edward) Eastman, Elizabeth (Andrew) Hatfield, Debra Powell, and Vicki Krismer, and 4 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Albert Gehrke, and wife Carolyn.

## *Celebrating the Life of*



## *Ronald D. Gehrke*

1933 — 2026

In Loving Memory Of

# Ronald D. Gehrke

March 24, 1933

Raymond, Minnesota

May 26, 2026

Willmar, Minnesota

## *Life Must Go On*

*Grieve for me, for I would grieve for you,  
Then brush away the sorrow and the tears,  
Life is not over, but begins anew.  
With courage you must greet the coming years.  
To live forever in the past is wrong,  
Can only cause you misery and pain,  
Dwell not on memories overlong,  
With others you must share and care again.  
Reach out and comfort those who comfort you,  
Recall the years but only for a while,  
Nurse not your loneliness but live again,  
Forget not--remember with a smile.*

### **Celebration of Life Service**

Friday, June 19, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home

Willmar, Minnesota

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Prelude                                | Megan Gilles           |
| Welcome                                |                        |
| Opening Prayer                         |                        |
| Hymn "For The Beauty Of The Earth"     | Megan Gilles           |
| Family Remembrances                    |                        |
| Scripture Readings                     |                        |
| Message                                | Pastor Dean E. Johnson |
| Hymn "How Great Thou Art"              | Isaiah Hatfield        |
| Closing Prayers                        |                        |
| Commendation                           |                        |
| Hymn "Go My Children With My Blessing" | Megan Gilles           |
| Postlude                               |                        |

### **Military Honor Guard**

Henderson-Lewis American Legion Post #545

Spicer, Minnesota

### **Interment**

Spicer City Cemetery

Spicer, Minnesota