



A Beautiful Life

A beautiful life came to an end,
He died as he lived, everyone's friend.
In our hearts a memory will always be kept,
Of one we loved, and will never forget.



In Loving Memory

Alvin Kraft

April 29, 1946 — March 28, 2026



Alvin "Al" Edward Kraft, age 79, of New Salem, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

Al was born on April 29, 1946, in Flasher, and was raised on the family farm near Selfridge, where he developed a lifelong appreciation for hard work, family, and the outdoors.

Al met the love of his life, Betty Blotsky, at a barn dance in Selfridge. After four years of courtship, they were married on June 4, 1966, and began a devoted partnership that spanned decades. Shortly after their

marriage, Al left for six months of training to serve in the National Guard, where he proudly completed six years of service.

Following his military training, Al and Betty moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota. During that time, Al worked at the Belle Fourche bentonite plant and later at the gold mine in Lead. While living in the Black Hills, they welcomed their two sons—Aaron, born in Deadwood and Arlen, born in Sturgis.

Al later began a career in the cable industry, where he worked for 23 years. Through hard work and dedication, he advanced to the role of regional manager. This career brought the family to Huron, South Dakota. During his time in Huron, Al also gave back to his community as an EMT, a volunteer firefighter, and a member of the City Safety Committee.

Later in life, Al transitioned to a career with Burlington Northern Railroad, which led the family to New Salem, North Dakota in the late 80's. He spent 18 years with the railroad before retiring in 2012.

Retirement didn't slow Al down. He returned to his roots in agriculture, lending a helping hand at Dale Neidhardt's farm, where he enjoyed staying active and connected to the land.

Al had a deep love for fishing and hunting throughout his life, and he cherished time spent over coffee with family and friends. Whether you knew Al for years or had just met him, he left a lasting impression as a genuinely kind, humble, and caring man.

Al is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Betty Kraft of New Salem; his sons, Aaron (Peggy) Kraft of Las Vegas, Nevada and Arlen (Jeannette) Kraft of Dendron, Virginia; brothers, Victor (Kathy) Kraft of Selfridge, ND, Willy Kraft of Bismarck, and Jake (Vernetta) Kraft of Belle Fourche, SD; sister-in-law, Frances Kraft of Mandan; along with extended family and many dear friends.



Funeral Liturgy

Tuesday, April 7, 2026; 11:00 AM
St. Pius V Catholic Church, New Salem, ND

Celebrant

Fr. Stephen Folorunso

Con-celebrant

Fr. Hugo Blotsky

Musicians

Dana Pazdernik & DeAnn Bueligen

Lectors

Lynn Tishmack & Karen Brammen

Processional Song

"On Eagles Wings"

Liturgy of the Word

Response

Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

New Testament Reading

Revelation 20:11-21:1

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12a

Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song

"Song of Mary"

Presentation of Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Songs

"Amazing Grace"

Communion Meditation

Final Commendation

Closing Song

"Wind Beneath My Wings"

The family invites you for food & fellowship in the church luncheon room immediately following the funeral service.

Committal Service

3:00 PM, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery
Mandan, ND

The procession to the cemetery will leave at approximately 2:15 PM.