

A Cowboy's Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, we pause at this time,
mindful of the many blessings you have
bestowed upon us. We ask, Lord, that you
will be with us in the arena of life.

We as cowboys do not ask for special favors.
We don't ask to draw around the chute
fighting horse, the steer that won't lay,
or to never break the barrier.

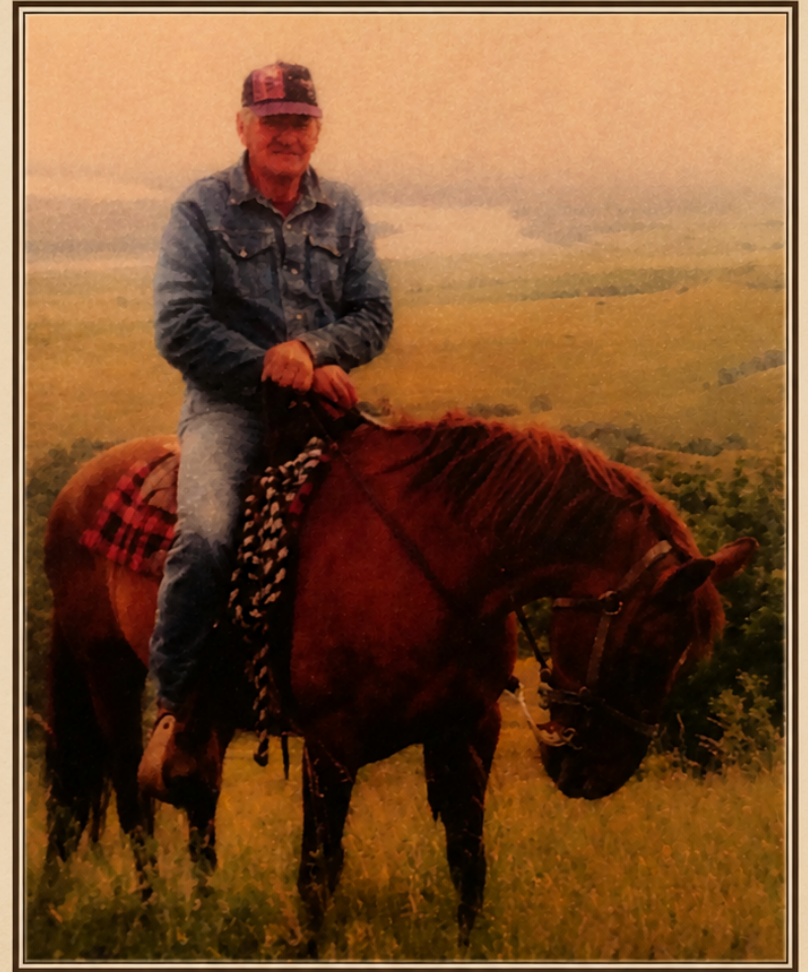
We don't even ask for all daylight runs.
We do ask Lord, that you will help us
live our lives here on earth as cowboys,
in such a manner, that when we make
that last inevitable ride, to the country
up there, where the grass grows lush,
green, and stirrup high, and the water
runs cool, clear, and deep, that you'll
take us by the hand and say:

*Welcome to Heaven, cowboy,
your entry fees are paid.*



In Loving Memory Wayne Graner

January 7, 1941 ~ June 15, 2026



*"His final ride is over, but the dust of his trail
remains in the heart of those who knew him."*



Wayne Michael Graner, 85, of Fort Rice, ND passed away from natural causes on June 15, 2026 at Sanford Hospital, Bismarck, ND.

Wayne was born in Huff, ND, to Raymond and Evelyn (Schmidt) Graner on January 7, 1941. He was the oldest of 6 children and raised on the farm in Huff. After graduating from Mandan High School in 1959, he went on to serve the US Army for four years.

Wayne married Phyllis Berger on July 2, 1966. Shortly after their marriage they took over Phyllis's family farm in St. Anthony where they farmed and ranched for many years. Wayne loved the country

and would often go for drives to see the farmland and rural views. He loved his farm animals. He loved rodeo's and his horses. He had several horses and was a contractor for bucking broncs for rodeo's across the state. One of his proudest moments was when he received the Saddle Bronc of the Year award in October 1990. He loved farming and ranching, but due to Wayne's asthma they sold the farm in 1992, and moved to Mandan. Wayne and Phyllis were blessed with four children, Jeff, Bonnie, Rhonda, and Kimberly. He was so proud of them and enjoyed playing cards, going on trips, fishing, hunting and rodeos with them when they were young.

Wayne worked various jobs and retired from the Union.

Wayne bought his dream home in 2008 in Fort Rice that became his forever home. Here he spent several years with Delores Beckler until she passed away on May 15, 2022. He loved to put in huge gardens and tending to that and canning. He continued to hunt, fish, playing Smear and Pinochle. He loved to get together with family and friends. He always had a story to tell. After Delores death, he spent his days with a very special friend, Sharon Usselman.

Wayne is survived by his four children; Jeff, Mandan; Bonnie (Dion) Dockter, Jamestown; Rhonda (Steve) Bondeson, Mandan; and Kimberly (Troy) Gullickson, Bismarck. 12 grandchildren, Haley, Libi and Jurney Graner, Mandan; Dustin Eckroth, Shakopee, MN; Shelby Eckroth, Bismarck; and MiKenzie (Cody) Eckroth, Fargo; Brekken Dockter, Bismarck; Chandler Bondeson, Edina, MN; Christian Bondeson, Mandan and Gracelyn Bondeson, Mandan. Dalton (Maci) Gullickson, Mandan; and Lindsey (Josh) Gullickson, Mandan; 5 Great Grandchildren, Maliya & Finley Heck, Rubi Medina-Graner, Hudson Evans, Letty Gunderson and another great grandson due in August; sisters Sharon (Danny) Barnhardt, Shirley (Carlyle) Reeffer and Sandy (Dennis) Bullinger; brother Randy (Patti) Graner and one sister-in-law Betty Graner. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews and his special friend Sharon Usselman; as well as his beloved cats, Boots and Rosie.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jerome Graner; brother-in-law, Loren Wetch; nieces, Becky Graner, Dana Berger, and Kerry Bumgarner, and his special companion, Delores Beckler.

Wayne also leaves behind so many special friends. All who knew him loved him for his smile, his sense of humor, and his story telling.

We love you Dad and Grandpa. We will love & miss you forever.

A special thanks to Jerry Hager for making the urn. Dad was very touched and it meant a lot to him to have this custom made for him.

Funeral Services for Wayne Graner

Rosary & Parish Vigil

Tuesday, June 23, 2026; 7:00 PM
Weigel Funeral Home, Mandan, ND
Presider: Deacon Gary Mizeur

Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, June 24, 2026; 10:30 AM
Spirit of Life Catholic Church, Mandan, ND
Celebrant: Fr. Keith Streifel

Honorary Urn Bearers

Randy Graner Roger Hille
Dave Hermanson Doug Hille
Mike Schmidt Brian Schmidt

Lector

Roger Hille
Shelbie Eckroth

Musicians

Carrie & Jeremy Davis

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional Song

"Old Rugged Cross"

"Be Not Afraid"

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

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

New Testament Reading

Romans 6:3-9

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song

"How Great Thou Art"

Presentation of Gifts

Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Songs

"Peace if Flowing Like a River"

Communion Meditation

"Here I Am, Lord"

Final Commendation

"Song of Farewell"

Closing Song

"Amazing Grace"

Committal Service



12 Noon; North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery
Mandan, ND

***The family invites you for food and fellowship at the
Mandan Moose Lodge (111 11th Ave NE) following the burial.***