

We've come to say Good Rest Dad,
we'll never say goodbye
For you'll always be with us,
And you know the reason why
You taught us to be honest, straight forward and true
You showed us love and understanding,
And made us want to be like you
We can't erase the memories,
The look, the laugh, the wink
They funny way you cocked your head that
Told us we were on the brink
The quiet strength you carried with you,
The brave face that you wore
The pain you suffered silently,
Till God brought you to His door
No one can take that from us, Dad,
Though we'll have your arms no longer
To comfort and console us,
Even your death has made us stronger
In the children you reared, Father,
You left your legacy
We'll do our best to live your truths,
For all the world to see
For we carry you with us, Dad,
in our minds and in our hearts
And from loving examples, they'll never tear us apart
So we've come to say,
"Good Rest...Father Dear"
Though God has claimed your body, in our hearts
You'll always be near.

Author ~ Terry Stuart

IN LOVING MEMORY



Joseph S. Schaff
1928—2025

Joseph (Joe) S. Schaff, 97, of Bismarck, formerly of St. Anthony, ND, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2025.

Joe was born on May 8, 1928, in St. Anthony, ND, to Paul and Magdalena (Wetsch) Schaff. He attended the local country school near the family farm. Joe often recalled doing farm work with horses and driving a header box by the age of seven.

On May 26, 1948, he married Catherine Leingang. Together, they had eight children before her passing on February 26, 1966. Her funeral was held on March 3rd during the Historic Blizzard of 1966. Joe later married Ruby Thorson on September 19, 1970, expanding his family with four stepchildren.

Joe was a lifelong farmer and rancher. After marrying Catherine, he continued to work on the family farm. In 1951, his father moved to Mandan and at that time Joe took over managing the farm. He later purchased the neighboring property, making numerous improvements over the years, including building a new home with Ruby in 1970. Joe and Ruby enjoyed socializing, dancing, and playing a competitive game of cards. Together, their efforts were honored in the February 2006 issue of *National Farm and Country Living Magazine*, which named the ranch the “Prettiest Place in the Country” also recognizing *Schaff Angus Ranch*. In March of 2006, they semi-retired and moved to Bismarck where, once again, they built a beautiful home surrounded by a picturesque yard.

Under Joe’s stewardship, the ranch developed Angus bloodlines that became well-known across the United States and abroad. He valued the opportunity to meet and work with cattlemen from around the world.

Joe had a deep love for animals and was instrumental in helping to establish the Valley City Winter Show. He also served as a 4-H leader. As a man of faith and community, Joe was a longtime member of the St. Anthony Catholic Church, the Church of Corpus Christi, the Knights of Columbus Council, the Bismarck Eagles, the Mandan Moose, and the St. Anthony Verine.

An Angus seedstock producer for over 60 years, Joe sold bulls and females in nearly every U.S. state and several countries worldwide. He was a member of multiple agricultural organizations, including the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, the North Dakota Angus Association, and the American Angus Association.

Joe received a number of honors for his achievements in livestock breeding and his dedication to agriculture that are too numerous to mention. *Schaff Angus Ranch* ranked first in the nation for the

number of Pathfinder cows until the dispersal of his cowherd. Among his numerous accomplishments and honors are the Historic Angus Cowherd Award and the 1993 North Dakota Angus Man of the Year Award. He was inducted into the American Angus Heritage Foundation in 2008 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. In June 2016, Joe was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, ND for Modern Era Ranching.

In closing, if you ever had the chance to spend time at the home of Joe and Ruby, you probably noticed books and magazines all over. He was an avid reader, and many financial advisors, brokers, and attorneys have commented on the successes he achieved with only an 8th grade education.

Joe is survived by his children: daughter Kathryn (Dave) Albrecht, sons Joseph P. and William (Lenore), all of Mandan; Robert (Nadine) and Edward (Bonnie) of Bismarck; and Andrew of Johnson City, TN, and his stepchildren: Debra (Ronald) Haus of Granbury, TX; Steven (Roberta) Thorson of Arena, ND, Calvin (Dorothy) Thorson of Bismarck, 24 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren, soon to be 30. He is also survived by his sister, Marianne Blasco of Bismarck; brothers Martin (Angie) of Mandan and Thomas (Lois) of Shakopee, MN; sisters-in-law Betty Berg, Ann Schwartz, Delores Wagner, and Annie Getz; brother-in-law Marlin “Nick” (Janelle) Leingang.

Joe was preceded in death by parents; his wives, Catherine and Ruby Schaff; infant sons, Johnny and Adam; step-son James “Jim” Hoppe; daughter-in-law Elizabeth “Betty” Schaff; grandsons Christopher Schaff and Scott Thorson; sisters Bertha (Paul) Heinrich, Barbara Saumell, Katherine (Robert) Taghan, and Leona Smith; brothers Anton (Barbara), Paul (Ann), and Adam Schaff; and in-laws Michael Blasco, Ron Schwartz, Albert Schwartz, Marcella (Rubin) Plienis, Ida Roebuck, Sharon Schwartz, Gladys Wahl, Harold Schwartz, Frank Leingang, Josephine (Robert) Muth, Clementine (Robert) Pivot, Lucielle (Ron) Burk, Lester (Cindy) Leingang, and Linda (Tom) Fry.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Church of Corpus Christi Foundation, 1919 N. 2nd St, Bismarck, ND 58501, or to a charity of your choice.

The family of Joseph Schaff sincerely thanks you for your presence, prayers, and kind expressions of sympathy.



SS

St. Anthony Verein Rosary Parish Vigil
President Tuesday, August 12, 2025; 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, August 12, 2025; 7:20 PM
 Deacon Bob Wingenbach

Funeral Liturgy Wednesday, August 13, 2025; 10:00 AM
 Church of Corpus Christi, Bismarck, ND

Celebrant Msgr. Patrick Schumacher
Assisting Deacon Bob Wingenbach
Musicians Sebastian Haboczki, Colleen Reinhardt
 Carolyn Hurlbut, Courtney Schaff, & Jennifer Schaff

Casketbearers Casey Schaff, Gregory Schaff, John Thorson
 John Schaff, Nicholas Schaff-Swink, Bradley Schaff, & Joshua Paul

Lectors Casey Schaff & Kari Schaff

Prelude "Daddy's Hands"
 Processional Song "Be Not Afraid"

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
 Response Psalm 23
"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."
 New Testament Reading James 5:7-11
 Gospel Reading John 14:1-6
 Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song "Amazing Grace"
 Presentation of Gifts Kat Hurlbut, Briana Schaff, & Sutton Schaff
 Eucharistic Prayer
 Communion Songs "Christ Be Our Light"
 Communion Meditation "The Old Rugged Cross"
 Final Commendation "Song of Farewell"
 Closing Song "How Great Thou Art"

The family invites you for food & fellowship at the Church of Corpus Christi Parish Hall immediately following the funeral service.

Committal Service **St. Mary's Cemetery**
 Bismarck, North Dakota