



Celebrating THE *Life* OF
Donald Goracke

FEBRUARY 13, 1935 – JULY 5, 2025

Services At:

Assumption Catholic Church - Morris, Minnesota
Thursday - July 10, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant:

Father Todd Schneider

Musicians:

Darlene Hennen
Heather Pennie-Roy

Pallbearers:

Christopher Vossen, Jordan Goracke
Ken McDonald, Zane McDonald
Dan Freese, Joshua Goracke, Garyn Goracke

Honorary Pallbearers:

Nicholas Goracke, Joel McDonald,
Everyone Who Has Ever Had Don as a Coach

Interment:

Calvary Cemetery
Morris, Minnesota

I'm proud of them - these hands of mine;
So **MANY** things they've done.
They've planted flowers, and pulled the weeds,
and worked out in the sun.
They've kneaded bread and cooked the meals
More times than I can say.
They've washed a ton of clothes,
I guess, and put them all away.
They've *soothed*
a small child's fevered brow & rubbed an aching head.
And when the evening shadows fell,
They put the brood to bed.
They've borne the bite of winter's cold
And felt the warmth of spring.
And on the finger long ago was put a wedding ring.
And when **MY JOURNEY** here is over,
I still shall *be thankful*
That these old work - worn hands of mine
Have done so much for me.

Donald Felix Goracke was born on February 13, 1935, in St. Mary, Nebraska, to Felix and Cecelia (Schuster) Goracke. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Chokio, Minnesota, where Don received his education, graduating with the Chokio High School, class of 1953. While at the Stevens Co. Fair in Morris, Don met Shirley Amborn. The couple was married on August 11, 1956, at the Assumption Catholic Church in Morris. Following their marriage, Don and Shirley purchased their home on Park Avenue in Morris and welcomed five children. In 1954, Don began his career with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, first in the Stock Room, and at the time of his retirement in 2000, Don was the Office Manager. Don continued to live in his home on Park Ave. until 2022, when he moved to Grand Arbor in Alexandria.

Don had a life-long love for baseball. He spent a lifetime playing and coaching baseball. Don helped coach sports for all ages – starting with Little League, Babe Ruth, Morris Junior and Senior Legion teams, Morris Tiger Baseball and Girls' Basketball, UMM Cougar Baseball & Softball, and Morris Senior League. Don organized and ran summer youth baseball camps throughout the area. In September of 2011, Don was inducted into the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame and at Wells Park in Morris, the field was named after Don, Goracke Field.

Don was a member of Assumption Catholic Church in Morris and was active with the St. Mary's School Board, was a eucharistic minister, and for years made doughnuts for the Assumption Fall Bazaar. Don also served on the Morris Park Planning Board, the Stevens County Housing Board, and was a long-time member of the Lions Club. Don was an active man; he could often be seen riding his bike around and running through town. He also enjoyed the outdoors: hunting, fishing, planting and tending to gardens and planting trees – at his home and beyond. A few more of Don's hobbies included: baking, candy making, woodworking, and photography. He could and would do anything! When his children were younger, the family would also go on camping trips, and slept in a tent that wasn't rain or raccoon proof!

Don died peacefully at his home at Grand Arbor in Alexandria, he was 90 years old.

Donald is survived by his children: Bruce (Julie) Goracke of Rochester, Brian (Vanessa) Goracke of San Tan Valley, AZ, Beth (Chuck) Vossen of Maple Grove, Brenda (Ken) McDonald of Alexandria and Brent (Tanya) Goracke of Jordan; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; brother, Cliff (Kathy) Goracke of Spicer; sister, Marilyn (Herb) Berg of Cyrus; and sister-in-law, Marie Goracke. He is preceded in death by his parents, Felix and Cecelia; his wife, Shirley; and one brother, Earl Goracke.



Please use this QR Code to access
Don's online guestbook

Pedersen 
Funeral & Cremation Service

