

Duane Dean Seehafer was born to Frederick “Fritz” and Elsie “Lizzie” (Rohlf) Seehafer on September 27, 1935, on the family farm northwest of Corona in Roberts County, South Dakota. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Corona.

Duane attended country school at Garfield School #3. He graduated from the eighth grade, after which he worked on the family farm. On August 8, 1958, he was drafted into the United States Army, but his service was cut short when he was called home to run the family farm because of his father’s declining health. He was honorably discharged on April 9, 1959. Returning to the farm brought great joy to Duane. The grain and dairy farm, which had been started by his parents, was a source of immense pride for him.

Duane and Patricia “Pat” Keller married on August 25, 1961, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank. They raised five children on the same family farm established near Corona. The couple managed a 36-cow dairy farm for many years while also growing crops. Through a carefully monitored breeding system, participation in Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing and detailed record-keeping, Duane and Pat developed the small herd into what was known locally as some of the best dairy cattle around. They passed their knowledge and love of farming to their children. The family was honored for its lengthy agricultural heritage when the operation was recorded as a Century Farm in South Dakota.

In the early 2000s, the couple sold the high-producing grade Holstein dairy cattle and transitioned to raising sheep. Both Duane and Pat enjoyed the change of pace, having noted that it didn’t hurt nearly as much if a ewe tried to push a person around. They transitioned into retirement as their son, Todd, and grandson, Brady, took over operating the farm. The couple moved off the farm and into Milbank in 2015, but they enjoyed watching and advising as the next generations worked the land that had been in the family for so many years. They also began to enjoy spending a substantial amount of time at their cabin on Big Stone Lake. Duane became a widower in 2017 but remained at the couple’s home in Milbank until moving to Peaceful Pines Senior Living in 2022. After the move into Milbank, Duane transferred his church affiliation to Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Duane enjoyed watching the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, fishing for all varieties except bass, hunting and playing games of pool. He enjoyed pool more if he was on the winning end of the score. Known for his quiet and kind demeanor and willingness to forgive, he was well-liked by everyone who knew him.

Duane is survived by his children: Teresa (Tony) Gaier of Albuquerque, NM; Jeff (Holly) Seehafer of Twin Brooks, SD; Kris Prins of Estelline, SD; Todd (Brenda) Seehafer of Corona, SD; and Brett (Susan VonEschen) Seehafer of Corona, SD; grandchildren: Jessica Seehafer; Jennifer Seehafer; Jacob (Kylie) Prins; Danielle (Mark) Larson; Brady (Jimmie) Seehafer; Brent (Luke) Seehafer; Taylor Seehafer; Caleb Seehafer; Haeley Seehafer; and Sawyer Seehafer; and great-granddaughters: Naomi Larson; Frankie Seehafer; and Ronnie Seehafer; and great-grandson, McCoy Larson. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, and four siblings: Evelyn Berg; Viola Frerichs; Maxine Gerdes; and Myron Seehafer.



In Loving Memory of

Duane Seehafer

WHO WAS BORN

September 27, 1935
South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

January 24, 2025
Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CLERGY

Pastor Chris Davis

MUSICIAN

Kristi Seehafer, Pianist

CASKET BEARERS

Taylor Seehafer | Brent Seehafer | Caleb Seehafer
Sawyer Seehafer | Brady Seehafer | Jacob Prins

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Danielle Larson | Jessica Seehafer | Jennifer Seehafer | Haeley Seehafer
Mark Larson | Delvin Schuler Jr. | Rick Seehafer | Kevin Berg | Jeff Berg

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion Birch-Miller Post #9
V.F.W. Grant County Post #3486
V.V.A. Northeast SD Chapter #1054
D.A.V. Chapter #19
Sons of American Legion Post #9

INURNMENT

At a Later Date

Kilborn Lutheran Cemetery
Corona, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Duane’s family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the service, please join the family for a time of fellowship and a luncheon at the church dining hall.

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

I farmed the land.
I tramped the wood,
These are the things I understood.

No grand schemes, they passed me by.
I knew the brook, the hills, the sky.

To hunt a bird, to wet a line,
Gifts from God, so good and fine.

Friend and kin, I LOVED THEM SO;
Although I'm gone, I'm sure they know,

I'm now at peace, life's battle done,
I've faced the foe and *I have won.*

- By: Earl Smithson

Please use this QR code to access Duane's
online guestbook & tribute video.



In Memory