

**Willard Gene Nieuwsma** was born on November 22, 1940, in Emmons County, North Dakota, the third child of William and Bertha Nieuwsma. He was raised south of Hull, North Dakota on the family farm. Willard passed away on June 17, 2026, in Howard, South Dakota, with his son Shane by his side.

He attended country school through the eighth grade. He was a man of strong work ethic and many talents. Throughout his lifetime, Willard worked in several occupations, including milk truck driver for the cheese plant, bulk gas truck driver, cattle broker, and farmer. He took pride in an honest day's work and in providing for his family.

On December 20, 1961, Willard married the love of his life, Sylvia Vander Vorst at Sylvia's parents' home northwest of Westfield, North Dakota. Together they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, and a deep commitment to family, faith, and the land.

Willard is survived by his son, Shane Nieuwsma, and daughter-in-law, Amanda Nieuwsma-Longie. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Troy's children, Christopher and Ryan Goehring, Dakota, Aranya, and Tanner Nieuwsma; and Shane's children, Chesney Rae Tillemans, Jaxsen, and Colsen Nieuwsma. Willard is survived by his sisters, Helen Huizenga of Edmonds, Washington, Lavonne Rossow of Buffalo, Wyoming, and Vivian Vander Vorst of Waukeet, Iowa; brothers-in-law, Herb Neukircher of Arizona and Jim Rossow of Gillette, Wyoming; and sisters-in-law, Gracey Nieuwsma of Pollock, South Dakota, and Lorraine Nieuwsma of Sioux Center, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sylvia; daughter, Natalie; son, Troy; and parents, William and Bertha Nieuwsma. Willard was also preceded in death by his brothers, Franklin of Pollock and Edwin of Sioux Center, Iowa; sisters, Carol Crawford-Neukircher and Gladys Dornbush-Seymour; and brothers-in-law, Lowell Seymour, Harlan Dornbush, Bob Crawford, Curt Vander Vorst, and Bob Huizenga.

## In Loving Memory Of



# Willard Nieuwsma

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**November 22, 1940 - June 17, 2026**



*A Life Well lived.  
A Heart Well Loved.*

Willard's greatest love was his children and grandchildren. He always had a full heart and treasured every opportunity to see and hear about their activities and sporting events. He especially enjoyed spending time with family and had a special fondness for ice cream. His stories, his sense of humor, and his steady presence will live on in all who knew him.

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He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.



*IN LOVING MEMORY OF*  
**Willard Gene Nieuwsma**

*85 years ~ 6 months ~ 26 days*



**BORN**  
*November 22, 1940  
North Dakota*

**PASSED AWAY**  
*June 17, 2026  
Howard, SD*

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
*2:00 pm, Monday, June 29, 2026  
Pollock Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Pollock, South Dakota*

**CLERGY**  
*Rev. Floyd Hann*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**  
*Janelle and Cody Vander Wa  
"When We All Get To Heaven"*

**HONORARY URNBEARERS**  
*Cole & Lee Nieuwsma*

**INTERMENT**  
*Hull Cemetery  
Hull, North Dakota*

*Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home, Mobridge, South Dakota.*