

The Day God Called You Home

God looked around his Garden and found an empty place.

He then looked down upon His earth and saw your loving face.

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.

His Garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain.

And knew that you would never get well on earth again.

He saw your path was difficult, He closed your tired eyes,

He whispered to you "Peace be Thine" and gave you wings to fly.

When we saw you sleeping so calm and free of pain,

We would not wish you back to earth to suffer once again.

You've left us precious memories, your love will be our guide,

You live on through your children, you're always by our side.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.

For part of us went with you on the day God called you home.



In Loving Memory of Bob "Pepper" Neal




SERVICES IN CARE OF
Furness Funeral Home
Gregory E. Furness
Clark, South Dakota
www.furnessfuneralhome.com

Robert (Pepper) Arnold Neal was born December 31, 1930, in Bradley, SD, to Dora (Miller) and Chet Neal. The family moved to Clark in 1944. Bob graduated from Clark High School in 1951, excelling in all sports. Baseball was his favorite from a very young age, always playing third base. Bob's father, Chet, and Sam Elrod, son of the fifth governor of SD, formed the Cagley Smith Post #60 American Legion Baseball Club in Clark in 1945. Both Bob and his brother, Cale, played for the team. Transportation to out-of-town games was Chet's two-ton stock truck. Bob achieved a consistently high batting and fielding average. He was a tough competitor; always playing to win. One year at the State Amateur Tournament in Aberdeen, Bob was invited to try out with the Baltimore Oriole Farm Club. He did not accept the offer, as he decided to join the US Navy. He served in the Navy from 1951-1955 followed by 4 years in the Reserve. He achieved the rank Quartermaster 3rd Class in Navigation and Communication. He received a United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Baseball came back to Bob during his time in the Navy. He tried out and was awarded a starting position for the Ninth Naval District Baseball Team. Early in his baseball career, Bob was nicknamed "Pepper" by fans, as he was an excellent base stealer like player, Pepper Martin. The nickname stuck with him throughout his life. After his time in the Navy, Bob and his father operated a joint family cattle operation. They also operated a successful home construction and remodeling business. When Chet retired, Bob Neal Construction continued until 1990. Following that, he managed the Garden Grove Apartments in Clark until he retired.

Bob married Margaret Anderson on May 12, 1961, in Watertown. He built the family home in rural Clark in 1963 where they lived until moving to Watertown in 2015. Bob continued to enjoy working with his gifted hands even after he retired from construction and created many projects with great pride that his family treasures. Many happy hours were spent riding his beloved John Deere mower. After a hot day in the sun, he would enjoy a cold Pepsi and admire the wildlife that inhabited his picture perfect lawn. Bob was a member of the Clark American Legion and the Clark United Methodist Church.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Margaret; daughter Robin and husband Tom Branhan of Mankato, MN; daughter Terri and husband Joe Bjerke of Watertown; granddaughter Alyson and husband Ryan Pattee of West Fargo, ND; granddaughter Bailey and husband Nate Cole of St. Louis Park, MN; grandson Garrett Branhan and fiancée Macy Lohmann of Mankato, MN; granddaughter Molly Branhan and fiancé Corey Kleinow of Lake Crystal, MN; great-grandchildren Gage Branhan and soon-to-be baby brother Ryker (arriving in August) and Parker Kleinow; sister Barbara and husband LaVern Peterson; sister Jeanette Seefeldt; brother-in-law Gordon Warne; and sisters-in-law Karen Neal and Joyce Anderson.

Preceding him in death were his parents Chet and Dora Neal; in-laws Clarence and Mabel Anderson; brothers Richard, Donald, and Cale Neal; sister Alice Warne; sisters-in-law Alice Neal and Ethel Neal; and brothers-in-law Dennis Hofer, Stanley Seefeldt, and Jim Anderson.



Celebrating the Life of Robert Neal

Services from
Furness Funeral Home Chapel
Clark, South Dakota
Saturday, July 18, 2020
11:00 AM



Officiant
Pastor Fawn Lamb

Music
"To Where You Are" —Josh Groban, recorded
"If I Had to do it All Over Again" —Roy Clark, recorded
"Abba Father" —The Reverend John Lantsberger
"On Eagle's Wings," recorded

Casketbearers
Garrett Branhan, Ryan Pattee, Nate Cole, Corey Kleinow

Honorary Casketbearers
Great-Grandsons, Gage Branhan, Parker Kleinow, Bob's Nieces and Nephews, and Son-in-Laws Joe Bjerke and Tom Branhan

Interment with Full Military Rites

The Reverend John Lantsberger, Presiding
Rose Hill Cemetery
Clark, South Dakota



The family of Bob Neal thanks you for your presence here today, for your thoughts, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown to them.