



In the gentle folds of earth and sky,
Where your heart found peace,
you now lie,
A steward of the soil, so wise and kind,
Leaving footprints of love
and deeds aligned.

From dawn's first light to twilight's hue,
You tended fields with hands so true,
Your laughter echoed in the
fields so wide,
Where dreams grew tall, side by side.

In pastures green, where cattle grazed,
Your presence lingered, softly praised,
A guardian of nature's serene embrace,
In every sunrise, a sacred place.

The seasons turned with
rhythmic grace,
As you nurtured life in this sacred space,
Your love for the land, a timeless bond,
In fields and ranches, forever fond.

Now as we gather,
hearts heavy with loss,
We remember your spirit,
no line or gloss,
For in the earth you loved and knew,
Your legacy blooms, forever true.

Rest now, dear soul, in fields of gold,
Where your stories and
memories unfold,
In the whispers of wind and
songs of the land,
Forever cherished, hand in hand.

In Loving Memory



SERVICES IN CARE OF
Furness Funeral Home

Clark, South Dakota
www.furnessfuneralhome.com

Donald "Don" Leland Handke passed away June 18, 2024 in Watertown, SD. He was 89 and had been living with congestive heart failure for several years.

Don was born November 26, 1934, and – along with his younger brother, Glenn – was raised by his parents, Lee and Norma Handke, in Ash Township, South Dakota. Both brothers grew up to become business-minded farmers. Don graduated from Ash School in 1953 and attended college at South Dakota State College for one year after high school.

Don and Sally LaBay, also of Ash Township, were married in Raymond on November 16, 1963. Their daughter, Laura, was born in August of 1964 and son, Jason, in April of 1969. Don built the house they grew up in with the help of just a few other men.

Bright, inquisitive, and witty right up until the end, Don loved a good meal, a good book, and music. He walked every day. He was a skilled horseman who trained his own horses long before the days of *The Horse Whisperer*, and became a private pilot in 1973, flying both an Aeronca Champ and Cessna 150. Family members fondly remember the annual Christmas celebration at the Handke farm where Don would hand-churn ice cream and pull kids with their sleds and toboggans back up the hill again on his snowmobile. His children also remember snowy nights in the winter with a fire burning in the fireplace, a slide show of old family photos on the wall, and Dad's homemade hot cocoa and popcorn.

Don was a skilled guitar and accordion player and enjoyed organic gardening in his later years. His curiosity led him to learn about everything from building a wind generator from a kit to making homemade sauerkraut, root beer and mead.

Don, beloved husband and father, will be deeply missed. He is survived by his wife, Sally, children Laura (George) and Jason (Dawn), granddaughters Claire (Charlie) and Hope, and brother Glenn (Pam). He also leaves several in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents.

Following the service, please join the family for lunch and a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Room.

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

Celebrating the Life of Donald "Don" Leland Handke

Services from

Furness Funeral Home, Clark, South Dakota

Monday, July 8, 2024—11:00 AM

Officiant

CRE Michelle Mehlberg

Recorded Accordion Music

"Vienna Blood Waltz" –Mihail Gavrilov

"Amazing Grace" ~Accordion Arrangement

"La Paloma" - Jose Navarro Amador

Private Family Interment

Prairie Valley Cemetery

Raymond, South Dakota

