




A Firefighter's Prayer



*Dear Lord, please hear this prayer of mine
As I leave home to take my station.
My gift has been to heed the call
Of my City, State, and Nation.*


*I rush to save the injured,
and the victims from the fire
But I pray to You for that fine day
When the needs are not so dire.*


*All that I ask for is Courage
To step into the blaze
For I know that You are with me
As we douse away the haze.*


*Please grant me strength to battle
The dangers I must endure
Surround me with Your Angels
And keep my footsteps pure.*


*So, as I leave my family
And wait for the next alarm
I pray that You'll go with me
And keep us all from harm.*



In Loving Memory



Darwin K. Walter

December 6, 1956 — December 11, 2024

Kuhler
Funeral Home

1360 Dakota Avenue South
Huron, South Dakota 57350
605-352-4234
www.kuhlerfuneralhome.com



Darwin was born December 6, 1956, in Huron, to William P. Walter and Lena Ruby (Tschetter) Walter Hoelzel Hansen (United in marriage on June 23, 1940). He was the youngest of three boys, Lynn the oldest and Ronald the middle. His father, William, died unexpectedly on February 12, 1961. His mother, Lena, was later united in marriage to Carl Hoelzel on November 25, 1964.

Darwin lived in Hitchcock his entire life. He graduated from Hitchcock High School, May 1975. He farmed on the family farm for many years and continued to farm with area farmers, helping them with their operation until his death.

He enjoyed farming, cattle, hunting, fishing, playing cards, darts, pool, watching area High School Sports, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and teaching younger generations various life skills. One of his proudest moments in recent years was teaching the younger firemen how to clean and prepare rocky mountain oysters, a very important life skill.

The fire department was a huge part of his life, serving on the Hitchcock Fire Department for 45 years, where he served as Assistant Fire Chief and Treasurer. His favorite event of the year was always Santa Day at the fire hall. He loved seeing all the kids and serving them his famously strong Shirley Temples. Darwin was a kind and quiet man, always willing to help whoever, whenever. He was a staple of the Hitchcock Community and he will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

Darwin is survived by his brother, Lynn (Alice); his nephew, William "Bill" Walter (Marsha); his niece, Tasma "Taz" Paye-Wilke (Patrick); his great-nieces, Abigail "Abi" Walter, Alison Wilke and Caleigh Wilke; his great-nephews, Gustaf "Gus" Walter, Bradley Wilke and Luca Herzog; as well as his beloved pug, Bailey.

He was preceded in death by his father, William; his mother, Lena; his step-father, Carl Hoelzel; his brother, Ronald; and many aunts and uncles.

Funeral Service

Friday, December 20, 2024

10:00 AM

Methodist Church

Hitchcock, South Dakota

Officiant

Rev. Steve Behrens

Music

Teresa Mallon — Organist

Taylor Marshall — Soloist

- Congregational Hymns -

Amazing Grace

The Old Rugged Cross

How Great Thou Art

Go Rest High On That Mountain by Vince Gill

Casket Bearers

Wade Oechsle

Tyler Oechsle

Victor Hoelzel

Nic Hoelzel

Cory Mallon

Tony Tschetter

Honorary Casket Bearers

Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Department

Interment

Altoona Cemetery

Hitchcock, South Dakota