

Michael Dale De Jager was born on March 22, 1961, to Don and Helen (Van Middendorp) De Jager. He grew up on the farm, where he learned a hard work ethic from a young age alongside his siblings. Mike attended school at Rock Valley Christian and Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa. After graduation, he began driving truck for Farmers Elevator in Rock Valley. Mike had a great rapport with the farmers and their families to whom he delivered feed. Cohesive friendships were made with coworkers and their families who enjoyed getting together. Outside of work, Mike enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping. Occasionally, he tried his hand at golf or went boating.

On April 3, 1982, he and Margaret Lefever of Orange City, Iowa made covenant before God to love and cherish each other until death parted. That union brought many years of good times as well as trials. The couple enjoyed their first year in a little house in Rock Valley before moving to an acreage where they worked together and raised hogs, cattle, and four children - Jesse, Lacey, Michaela, and Kasia.

Mike had a successful life. Not because of money, property, or possessions, but because he was a loving, caring soul who valued hard work, his marriage, and his children. More importantly, Mike's greatest success is being perfectly loved and ransomed by Jesus blood. Mike went to be with Jesus on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, passing away at Whispering Heights in Rock Valley at the age of 64, following multiple medical difficulties over the past few years. He is now whole - no more hurt, internal struggles, or pain. He has freedom in Christ Jesus!

Mike's memory will remain in the hearts and lives of his wife of 43 years, Margaret; son, Jesse De Jager; daughters, Lacey (Jeremy) Ballew, Michaela Van Surksum, and Kasia Van Egdom (David Casper); grandchildren, Keegan (Lexi), Kyson, Kyler, Makiah, and Karsten Van Surksum, Kiana and Gavin Van Egdom, Kage and Lakyn Casper, and Blakely Ballew; mother, Helen; sister, Leann (Roger) Kriz; brothers, Darwin (Carla) De Jager, Herlan (Janeen) De Jager, and Kyle (Mindy) De Jager; father-in-law, Phares Lefever; sister-in-law, Beth (Bob) Schoone-Jongen; brothers-in-law, Bruce (Connie) Lefever, Tom (Luann) Lefever, and Barry (Karen) Lefever; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Don De Jager; sister, Mona Joy De Jager; son-in-law, Michael Van Surksum; and mother-in-law, Freeda Lefever.

Celebrating the Life of **Michael Dale De Jager** **March 22, 1961 ~ February 11, 2026**

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:00 AM, Monday, February 16, 2026
Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Pastor Luke Johnston

PIANIST

Natalie Ysselstein

MUSICAL SELECTION

"The Old Rugged Cross"
Alan Jackson

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"
"Knowing You"
"Because He Lives"

PALLBEARERS

Jesse De Jager ~ Jeremy Ballew
David Casper ~ Keegan Van Surksum
Kyson Van Surksum ~ Kyler Van Surksum
Gavin Van Egdom ~ Karsten Van Surksum

INURNMENT

(At a later date)
Hillside Cemetery
Doon, Iowa

Mike's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall immediately following the funeral service.



*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10



IN LOVING MEMORY
MICHAEL DALE DE JAGER
MARCH 22, 1961 ~ FEBRUARY 11, 2026