

## *Life is Eternal*

*I am standing on the seashore, a ship at my side  
spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and  
starts for the blue ocean.*

*She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand  
and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck  
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down  
to mingle with each other.*

*Then someone at my side says, "There! She's gone."*

*Gone where? Gone from my sight is all. She is just as  
large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she  
left my side and just as able to bear her load of living  
freight to the place of destination.*

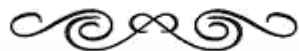
*Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at  
the moment when someone at my side says,*

*"There! She is gone", there are other eyes watching  
her coming, and other voices ready to take up the  
glad shout,*

*"There she comes."*

*By Henry Van Dyke*

*Please join the family for lunch and a time of fellowship in the  
Bottoms Up! Event Room following the burial.*



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*Furness Funeral Home*

Clark, South Dakota  
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# *Celebrating the Life of -*



## *Clair "Bud" Drayer*

November 30, 1928-October 10, 2023

"The Best Father Ever" –as noted by his children, was Clair Milford "Bud" Drayer.

"Bud" as he was known to everyone, was born in Doland, South Dakota, on November 30, 1928, to Milford and Mamie Drayer. He joined a sister and was an older brother to his three younger brothers. He was baptized in the Doland Lutheran Church.

He was destined to be a farmer. In fact, according to his Aunt Helen, he was farming at the age of 8!!

Bud was very dedicated to his chosen profession. He worked long hours both crop farming and caring for his livestock. His children called him an "Old McDonald" farmer – he did so much. He also spent time serving on the board of directors for both the Farmers Union Cooperative and his local township.

On October 8, 1950, Bud married his love for life, Verlyn Shult. Their family grew to 6 in the years following – Stephanie, Nancy, Debra, and Gregory. Bud was extremely proud of his family – setting an example of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. He protected them through good and challenging times, always assuring that the family prevails!

After retiring and selling his home farm, he continued to work on neighbors' farms for a few years. Unable to resist the call of the land – he started gardening . . . just a small plot which grew every year into a magnificent sea of fresh vegetables for all to enjoy!

Bud's faith was very strong. He was an active member of the United Methodist Church in Doland, serving on its board of directors for many years as well as a member of the Methodist Men both in Doland and Watertown. Recently he was given the honor of being the longest living member of the Doland church – 81 years!

When Verlyn was admitted to Jenkins Home in Watertown, Bud moved into an apartment across the street from her to be closer and be able to visit her. He would spend many hours daily at Jenkins not only visiting with Verlyn, but also with the many residents, families, friends, and staff. He was a quiet, loving, dedicated man with a kind, generous, soft heart. After Verlyn's death in 2020, his days were spent visiting with the many friends he had come to know. Recently he moved into Edgewood Assisted Living in Watertown, which would become his final home. He died peacefully surrounded by family and friends on October 10, 2023.

Bud is preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Verlyn, parents Mamie and Milford Drayer, sister Elaine (Herron) Smith, and brother Fred (Norma) Drayer, sisters-in-law Judine Drayer, Ardyce (Arnie) Labrie, Marilyn (Bob) Larson, brother-in-law Larry Shult, and parents-in-law Raymond and Alice Shult.

His family will cherish the many fond memories he has left for them; his children – Stephanie (Tim) Courington, Nancy (Randy) Ufken, Debra (Ernie) Waldner, and Gregory (Tammy) Drayer; his grandchildren – Karen, Max, Chase, Erik, Emily, Andrew, Alan, John, Christopher, Christina, and Matthew; step-grandchildren – Ryan, Jennifer, and Eric; 12 great grandchildren and 8 step-great grandchildren; brothers-in-law John and Wayne (Carol) and their families, the families of Elaine and Fred, and sisters-in-law Lenora Shult and Edna Shult.

"His integrity forever lives with them all!"



## *Celebrating the Life of Clair "Bud" Drayer*



### *Services From*

United Methodist Church  
Doland, South Dakota  
Saturday, November 4, 2023  
11:00 AM

### *Officiant*

Pastor Kris Larson

### *Recorded Music*

"On Eagles Wings" - Josh Groban  
"Why God Made A Farmer" - Paul Harvey  
"How Great Thou Art" - Daniel O'Donnell  
"Take Me Home, Country Roads" - John Denver

### *Honorary Casket Bearers*

Bud's Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and  
His Step-Grandchildren and Step-Great Grandchildren

### *Casket Bearers*

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Gary Tschetter  | Craig Schroeder  |
| Louie Noethlich | Dwight Noethlich |
| Bill Noethlich  | Francis Hass     |

### *Interment*

Doland Cemetery  
Doland, South Dakota



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