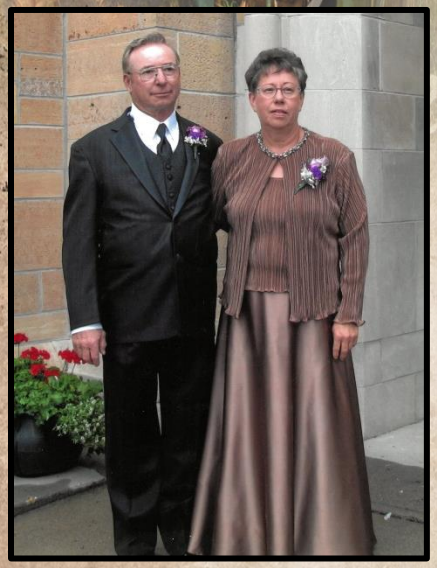


CLOSE THE GATE

By Nancy Kraayenhof

For this one farmer the worries are over,
lie down and rest your head,
your time has been and struggles enough,
put the tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended,
put away your tools and sleep in peace.
The fences have all been mended.

You raised a fine family, worked the land well
and always followed the Son,
hang up your shovel inside of the barn;
your work here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way,
the sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded,
and here now is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
wash off your work boots in the puddle
left by blessed rain one final time.

You always believed that the good Lord
would provide, and He always had somehow,
take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;
no more must you wait,
your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.

In Loving Memory

Dennis Charles Mutsch

January 30, 1943
Madelia, Minnesota

December 31, 2024
Aberdeen, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE:

10:30 a.m., Friday, January 10, 2025
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Faulkton, South Dakota
With Military Honors

CELEBRANT:

Fr. John Short

LECTOR:

Craig Johnson

VOCALIST:

Laura Melius

HYMNS:

"Be Not Afraid" *"All the Faithful Departed"*
"Only a Shadow"

BURIAL:

Miranda Cemetery
Miranda, South Dakota

Luce, Luze & Reck
FUNERAL HOMES

Faulkton, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

Dennis C. "Ralph" Mutsch, 81, of Rockham, passed away Tuesday, December 31, 2024, in Aberdeen.

Dennis Charles Mutsch was born January 30, 1943, in Madelia, MN to Ralph and Dorothea (Metz) Mutsch. He came to South Dakota at the age of three with his parents so Ralph could take over the Fred and Clara Metz farm after Fred passed away suddenly. This farm is the current homestead by Miranda, where Dennis lived ever since.

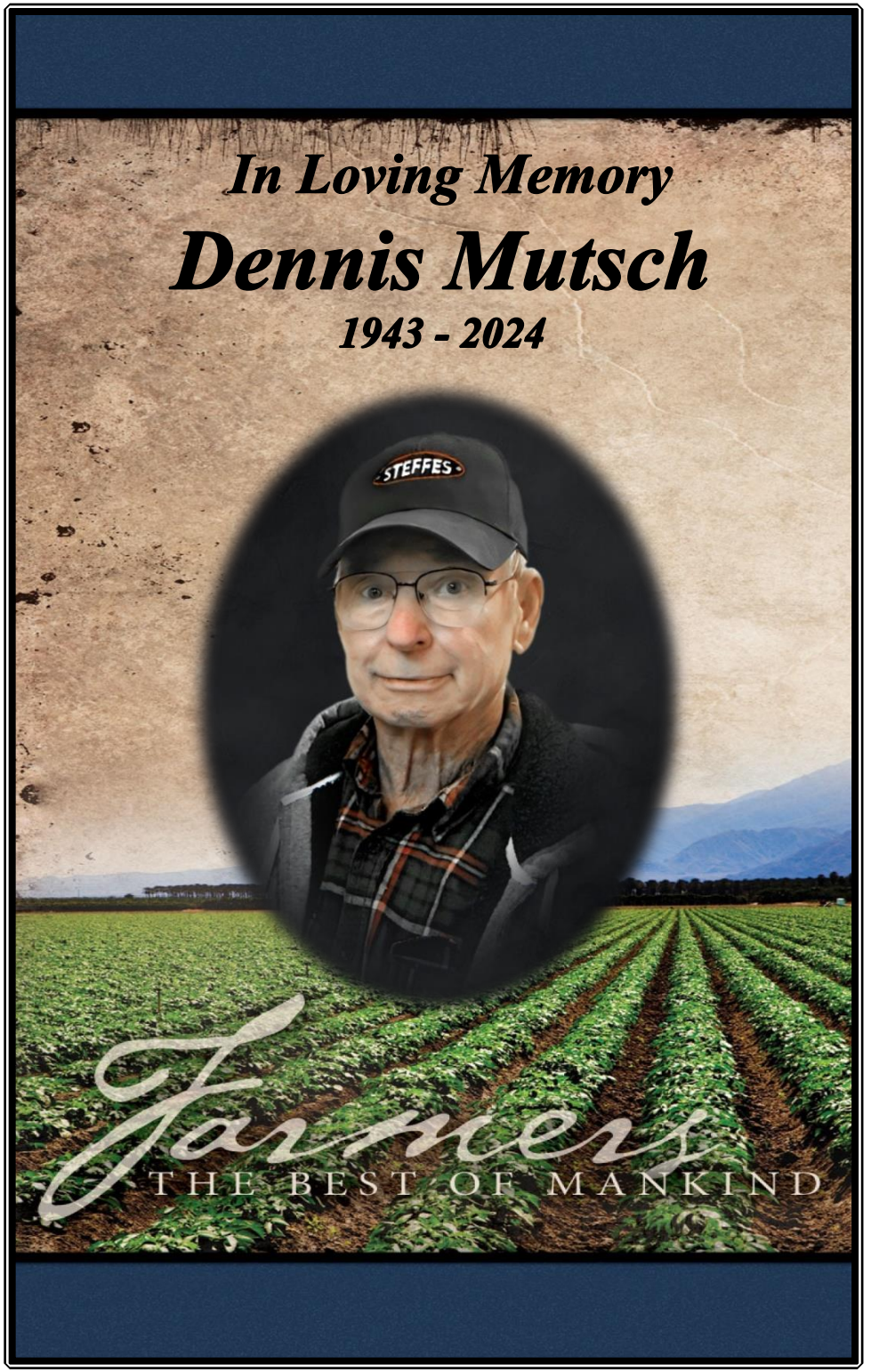
Dennis attended country school near the farm by Miranda until his freshman year when he began attending Faulkton High School, graduating with the class of 1961. After high school, Dennis attended Spring College (University of South Dakota of Springfield) for three years where he majored in mechanics, until his third-year majoring in general education.

In 1964 he joined the United States Army and was based in Germany for three years. He returned to Springfield College for a semester until his father Ralph had a heart attack. Dennis then took the farm over in Miranda, where he raised grain and livestock. He loved working on the farm until the day he died.

On December 27, 1969, Dennis married Linda Malsom, his wife of 55 years. They had three children: Craig, Kevin, and Roxanne. While on the farm, he returned to Northern College to finish his bachelor's degree in industrial arts which was important to him. However, the farm was where his true passion lay.

Dennis served on many boards throughout his lifetime including the Centerville Township Board, Missouri Valley Insurance Board, Miranda Cemetery Board, and Faulkton Farmers Elevator Board. His strong work ethic, intelligence, and attention to detail made him an asset to all the boards he served on.

One of Dennis's favorite things was sports as you would always see him at games. He never missed his grandkid's sporting events and enjoyed the social aspect as well. He also loved hunting and the strong relationships he built with family and friends. He formed these strong relationships with the hunters during the fall season. He enjoyed visiting with his neighbors and kept in touch with friends and classmates from school.

Dennis is survived by Linda Mutsch, his wife of 55 years; his children: Craig Mutsch (Tomelyn Taylor) of Faulkton, Kevin Mutsch (Peg Speck) of Faulkton, and Roxanne (Jared) Woodring of Athol; grandchildren: Kailyn Mutsch, Jade and Dade Monroe, and Lincoln and Isabelle Woodring; his brother-in-law, Craig Johnson; and nieces, Stephanie (Bob) Lindberg and Cami (Sam) Drahn.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents: Ralph and Dorothea Mutsch; and a sister, Louise Johnson.