

Close the Gate (For Dad)

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.

-- by Nancy Kraayenhof

Arrangements Entrusted To



*Highmore, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net*



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down,
and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.



Orville P. Ratzlaff, 92, of Highmore, passed away Sunday, July 22, 2012 at Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller.

Orville Paul Ratzlaff was born January 11, 1920 to Isaac and Eva (Boese) Ratzlaff at their home 10 miles south of Highmore. He attended the South Eagle Township Elementary School and graduated from Highmore High School in 1938.

He served this country during WWII in the 42nd Army Air Force Base Unit at Maxwell Field, Alabama. He was trained as a surgical medical technician at Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. He was honorably discharged February 11, 1946, when he was awarded the American Theatre Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal.

Orville attended college at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, where he graduated in 1950 with a B.A. Degree in Secondary Education. He later earned a degree in Elementary Education from Ball State Teachers' College at Muncie, Indiana. He was granted his Master's Degree from Columbia University, New York City in 1951.

In 1952, Orville married Frances Brown at the North Anderson Church of God in Anderson, Indiana. They made their home in Anderson until 1961. To this union two daughters were born, Anita Louise and Faith Ann. He taught school for 30 years in Indiana, Iowa and South Dakota (14 of which were on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation at Ft. Thompson, South Dakota). He retired from teaching in 1982. Orville, with his family, moved ten miles southeast of Highmore, where they have farmed since 1967.

He worshipped at the Grace Bible Church in Highmore where he assisted in teaching the Adult Bible Class for many years. He will best be remembered for his love of God's word, the Bible, large portions of which he had committed to memory. His favorite verse being Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

His memory will be cherished by his wife, Frances of Highmore; two daughters: Anita Ratzlaff of Highmore and Faith (Kim) Ruhl of Byng, OK; one sister, Clara Hall of Highmore; two brothers: Leroy (Rena) Ratzlaff of Highmore and Sidney (Billee) Ratzlaff of Boise, ID; sister-in-law, Laura Ratzlaff, widow of Alvin Ratzlaff, of Springfield, MO and Grace Ratzlaff, widow of Leslie Ratzlaff, of Lake Wales, FL and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Gilbert, Alvin, a set of twins, Leslie, Arnold and Willis; sisters: Esther, Rosa, Ida, Virginia, Florence, Mary and Ruby.

In Loving Memory

Orville Paul Ratzlaff

January 11, 1920
Highmore, South Dakota

July 22, 2012
Highmore, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, 2012
United Methodist Church - Highmore, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Sheena Thomson

CASKETBEARERS

Cody Sivertsen	Wade Sivertsen	Robert Hanson
Durward Ratzlaff	Myron Ratzlaff	Melvin Hall

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS

Elroy Ratzlaff - Kim Ruhl

USHERS

Gary Sivertsen - Lee Kolda

GUESTBOOK

Donita Ratzlaff

FLOWERBEARER

Skyla Ratzlaff

ACCOMPANISTS

Robin Sivertsen - Grant Johnson

VOCALISTS

Annette Sewright, Lucille Vander Vorst, Yvonne Bartscher
"When They Ring the Golden Bells" - "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be"

Patty Muser - *"Oh, What a Beautiful Morning"*

Sheena Thomson - *"How Great Thou Art" (sung in German)*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Face to Face with Christ, my Savior" - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

INTERMENT

9:00 a.m., Thursday, July 26, 2012
Highmore Cemetery - Highmore, South Dakota