



A Life Remembered

Lester Becker
1926 - 2013

Lester Becker, 86, of St. Lawrence, passed away Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Good Samaritan Society in Miller.

Lester Kenneth Becker was born August 22, 1926 to John & Freida (Hardie) Becker on the family farm south of Rockham, SD. He attended rural Sanger School for 8 years, 3 years at Rockham High School and graduated from St. Lawrence High School in May 1944. After high school he helped his father on the farm while his brothers were in the service.

On May 12, 1948 he married Verna Van Zee and they moved to a farm in Holden Township. He continued to farm and raise livestock until 2008, when he moved to Miller Good Samaritan Society.

Les was an active member of the St. Lawrence Community Church where he served as a board member. He served on the Hand County Memorial Hospital Board for 23 years, a County Committee member, and the ASCS board for 9 years. He also served as school and township board member and 4-H leader for 25 years.

He is survived by his wife, Verna, St. Lawrence; three daughters: Cheryl (Dwane) Pease, Pierre, Dianne (Steve) Shaykett, Hartford, and Debra (Tim) Pullman, Miller; two granddaughters, Christy (Jason) Ehlers, Pierre and Jessica Shaykett, Minneapolis, MN; one grandson, Travis (Katie) Shaykett, Sioux Falls; three great-grandsons: Tyler (Mary) Ehlers, Justin and Dawson Ehlers, all of Pierre; one great-granddaughter, Clara Shaykett of Sioux Falls; one great-great grandson, Karson Ehlers, Pierre.; one sister, Elvina (Roger) Engle, New Hope, MN; two sisters-in-law: Leona (Blondie) Becker and Lucy Becker, both of Redfield; one brother-in-law, Robert Schmidt, Redfield.

Les is preceded in death by his parents; sisters: Evelyn, Lucillia Abby, and Irene Schmidt; brothers: Marvin, Milton, and Marlin.

Just A Farmer

"Just a farmer," you said
And I laughed 'cause I knew
All the things that farmers
Must be able to do.

They must study the land,
Then watch the sky
And figure just when
Is the right time and why.

To sow and to plant
To buy and to sell
To go to the market
With cattle and well---

You know the books
That farmers must keep
To pay all those taxes
And be able to sleep.

And you know the fixin'
That farmers must do
When machines like mud
Monsters blow a gasket or two.

I guess when God needed
Folks to care for His earth
He chose "just farmers"
'Cause He knew their truth worth.

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Lester Becker

August 22, 1926
Rockham, South Dakota

March 18, 2013
Miller, South Dakota

PRAYER SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2013
St. Lawrence Community Church – St. Lawrence, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE: 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 22, 2013
St. Lawrence Community Church – St. Lawrence, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Pastor Scot Tutt

CASKETBEARERS:

Dean Van Zee
Jim Becker

Bobby Turner
Jeff Engle

Michael Becker

Albert Schmidt
Larry Becker

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS:

Lester's Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & Great-Great Grandchild

ORGANIST: Donna Melber

PIANIST: Linda Allen

VOCALIST: David & Lori Fremark – "On Eagle's Wings" & "Daddy's Hands"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "The Old Rugged Cross"

INTERMENT: St. Lawrence Cemetery – St. Lawrence, South Dakota