

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

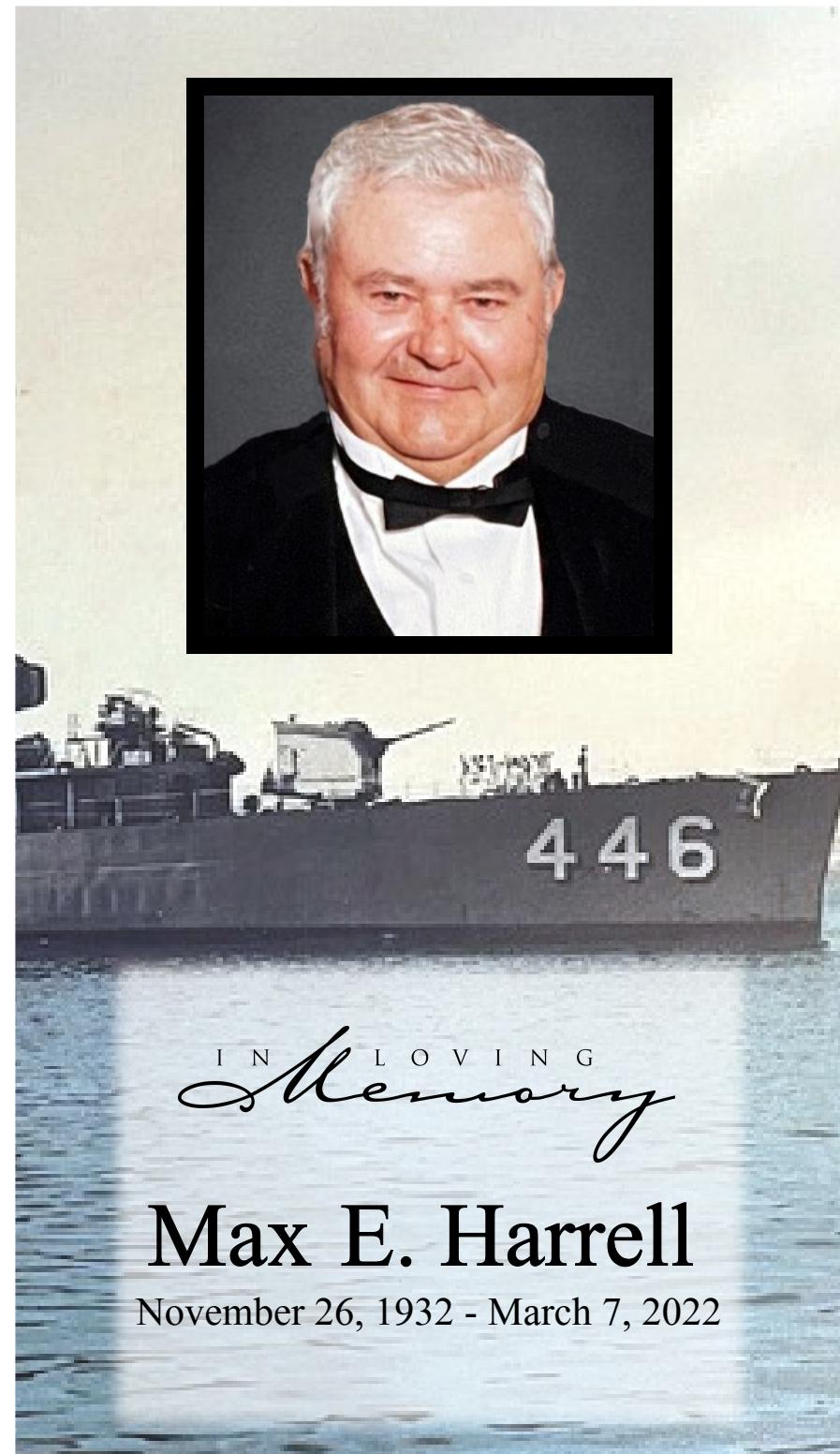
God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

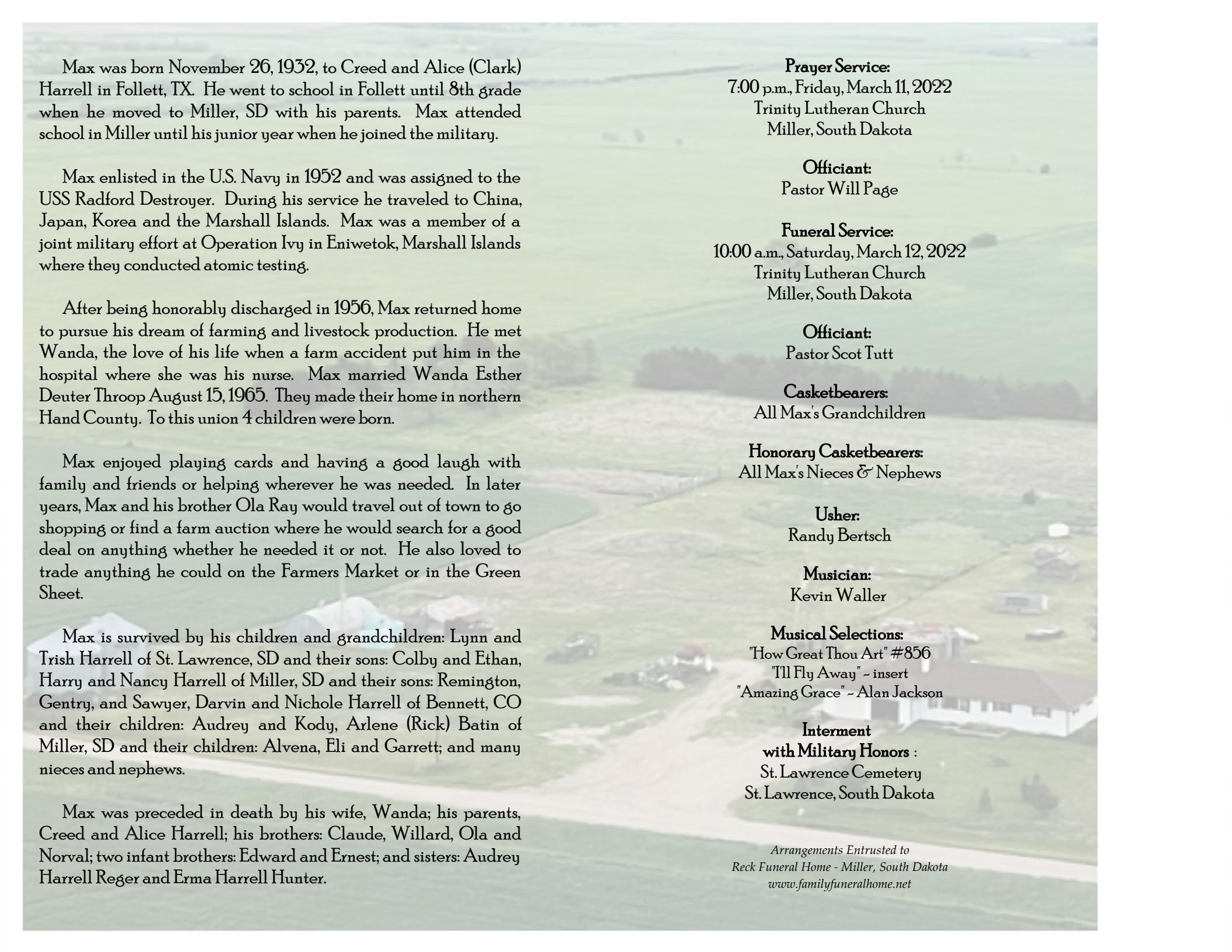
God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

"Keep it out of the ditches"

-Max Elroy Harrell





Max was born November 26, 1932, to Creed and Alice (Clark) Harrell in Follett, TX. He went to school in Follett until 8th grade when he moved to Miller, SD with his parents. Max attended school in Miller until his junior year when he joined the military.

Max enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1952 and was assigned to the USS Radford Destroyer. During his service he traveled to China, Japan, Korea and the Marshall Islands. Max was a member of a joint military effort at Operation Ivy in Eniwetok, Marshall Islands where they conducted atomic testing.

After being honorably discharged in 1956, Max returned home to pursue his dream of farming and livestock production. He met Wanda, the love of his life when a farm accident put him in the hospital where she was his nurse. Max married Wanda Esther Deuter Throop August 15, 1965. They made their home in northern Hand County. To this union 4 children were born.

Max enjoyed playing cards and having a good laugh with family and friends or helping wherever he was needed. In later years, Max and his brother Ola Ray would travel out of town to go shopping or find a farm auction where he would search for a good deal on anything whether he needed it or not. He also loved to trade anything he could on the Farmers Market or in the Green Sheet.

Max is survived by his children and grandchildren: Lynn and Trish Harrell of St. Lawrence, SD and their sons: Colby and Ethan, Harry and Nancy Harrell of Miller, SD and their sons: Remington, Gentry, and Sawyer, Darvin and Nichole Harrell of Bennett, CO and their children: Audrey and Kody, Arlene (Rick) Batin of Miller, SD and their children: Alvena, Eli and Garrett; and many nieces and nephews.

Max was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda; his parents, Creed and Alice Harrell; his brothers: Claude, Willard, Ola and Norval; two infant brothers: Edward and Ernest; and sisters: Audrey Harrell Reger and Erma Harrell Hunter.

Prayer Service:

7:00 p.m., Friday, March 11, 2022
Trinity Lutheran Church
Miller, South Dakota

Officiant:

Pastor Will Page

Funeral Service:

10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 12, 2022
Trinity Lutheran Church
Miller, South Dakota

Officiant:

Pastor Scot Tutt

Casketbearers:

All Max's Grandchildren

Honorary Casketbearers:

All Max's Nieces & Nephews

Usher:

Randy Bertsch

Musician:

Kevin Waller

Musical Selections:

"How Great Thou Art" #856
"I'll Fly Away" - insert
"Amazing Grace" - Alan Jackson

Interment

with Military Honors :
St. Lawrence Cemetery
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted to
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net