The Road That Leads Me Home

The road stretches out before me,
Through fields beneath the sky,
Past familiar hills and valleys,
Where the years have traveled by.

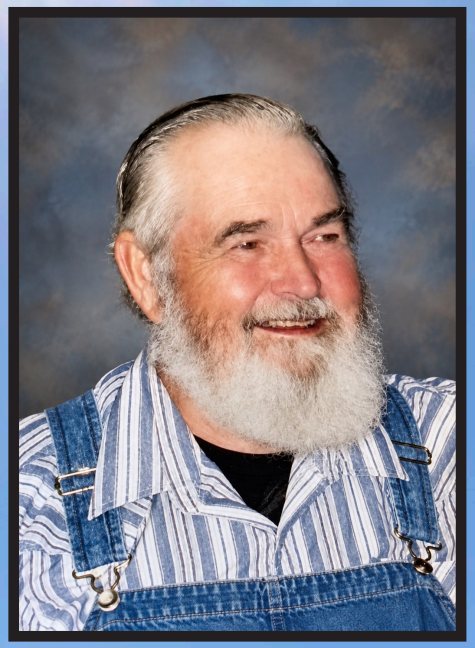
I've driven many miles in life,
Seen the seasons come and go,
Made some friends along the way,
And taken roads I've come to know.

Now there's one more road to travel,
One last journey I must roam,
And beyond the distant horizon,
There's a road that leads me home.

So when you see a country road,
Stretching far beyond your view,
Remember all the miles we shared,
And know I'm traveling with you.

Author Unknown

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In Memory of

Ray Edward Ross

March 6, 1941 - October 17, 2026

Ray E. Ross, 85, of St. Lawrence, passed away on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Highmore Health.

Ray Edward Ross was born in Wessington, SD, to Robert and Marjorie (Smith) Ross.

Ray graduated from Wessington High School in 1959 and went on to attend Universal Trade School in Omaha, Nebraska, for one year. He began driving truck for his neighbors in the late 1950s, hauling everything from grain and livestock to rocks and whatever else needed to be moved. This was the beginning of a lifelong career behind the wheel.

In 1962, Ray married Sharon Hedge. Together, they welcomed their daughter in 1971 and their son in 1975. During the Vietnam War, Ray served in the military, spending eight months driving a mail truck. He was active in the Wessington Legion Post #110 for 59 years. He also took pride in being a Mason for 50 years.

Throughout his life, Ray was no stranger to hard work. Along with his years of trucking, he raised various types of livestock for roughly half of his life. He even took his daughter along to tag calves in his late-1950s Renault, proving that just about anything could make a good pasture runner. Ray continued driving truck for various companies until retiring in his mid-70s.

Ray was an avid car collector who always had big ideas and enjoyed dreaming up his next project. Racing ran deep in his blood, and he was never shy about offering advice, whether it was wanted or not. His love of racing carried on through his son, grandson, and granddaughter, giving them a passion they could share across generations.

Ray was known for his charismatic personality and his ability to strike up a conversation with just about anyone. He never met a stranger and always enjoyed a good visit. Whether the conversation was about trucking, livestock, cars, or racing, Ray usually had a story to tell or a little advice to share. He will be remembered for his outgoing personality, his love of cars, and the many friendships he made throughout his life.

His memory will be cherished by his children: Melissa (Don) Morris and Robert Ross of St. Lawrence; grandchildren: Bowdry, Destrie, and Sabrah Morris; great-granddaughter, Launa Jo-Ann Morris; in-laws: Linda Hancock of Mt. Vernon, Dean (Mary) Hedge of Wessington, Kent (Sharon) Hedge of Huron, Diane Kokesh of Woonsocket, and Randy (Karen) Hedge of Custer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Sharon, in 2024; and two brothers-in-law, Leonard Hancock and Robert Kokesh.

In Memory of
Ray Edward Ross

March 6, 1941
Wessington, South Dakota

October 17, 2026
Highmore, South Dakota

Funeral Service
10:00 a.m., Saturday, October 24, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Wessington, South Dakota

Clergy
Pastor Robert Brooks

Casketbearers
Don Morris
Bowdry Morris
Mike Mitchell
Chad Feldman
Destrie Morris
Sabrah Morris

Musical Selections
"Stroker Ace" - Charlie Daniels Band
"East Bound and Down" - Jerry Reed
(from "Smokey and the Bandit")

Burial with Military & Masonic Rites
Rose Hill Cemetery
rural Wessington, South Dakota

The family warmly invites you to join them following the burial for lunch and continued fellowship at the Wessington Legion.