



## Doug Kapphahn

May 28, 1926 - July 7, 2020

The funeral service for Doug Kapphahn of Bertha will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday July 17, at the New Life Church of God in Bertha, with Pastor Dave Seaton of the Faith United Church of Christ presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. and will resume on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Doug, age 94, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa, MN.

Douglas Eugene Kapphahn was born May 28th, 1926 in Hudson Township, Douglas County, Minnesota to Francis and Maude (Meyers) Kapphahn. In 1940, at the age of 14, Doug's family moved from the Alexandria area to the farm West of Bertha.

After graduating from high school in 1944, Doug enlisted in the army and was stationed in Japan and the Philippines. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, Doug married Kathryn Marie Franklin at the Church of God in Bertha on June 5, 1947. Together they farmed and raised their family: Gene was born in 1950, Vicki in 1952, and Candy in 1956.

Doug worked at the Bertha Creamery driving milk truck for years while also farming. He eventually worked road construction and was a scraper operator. He took great pride in building roads throughout Minnesota. In July 1979, he and Kathryn purchased the Bertha Cafe and renamed it Kapp's Kafe. Kathryn

held down the fort until Doug retired from road construction a few months later. Kapp's was popular with the school kids, especially after practice or between ball games. There were many burgers fries, and malts prepared. No kid ever went without as there was always an extra plate made by mistake and given away to a kid who did not have the money. Doug was very generous. There were many free candy bars tossed to the customers or handed to the kids as they went out the door.

After serving the Bertha community for 28 years, Doug and Kathryn retired from Kapp's in 2007 at the ages of 79 and 81. After leaving the cafe, he had more time to spend on one of his favorite hobbies, woodworking. He spent many hours out in his shop with his scroll saw, whittling out hundreds of nameplates and his specialty wooden crosses. He gave everything he ever made away, never expecting pay. Doug donated many of the crosses he made to families who had lost a loved one or to the Funeral Home to be given to a family as a keepsake.

Doug loved the outdoors. He talked many times of how he, as a kid, would ski every day 5 miles to school and back home. He loved to fish and one of his favorite things to do was to float the Wing River fishing for Northerns. The old river-bottom hill, where he lived, was a great place for the local kids to spend Sunday afternoon sliding in the winter, after which his mom would treat everyone to hot chocolate and fresh bread. The roller-skating rink in Bertha was a popular spot on Friday nights for young and old alike and he was an avid skater. He spent much time hunting and enjoyed deer hunting, bird hunting, and just being out in nature.

Doug was a lefty and was gifted with beautiful handwriting. He liked to draw pictures and shared his talent with his family. Music was also always important to him. If you happened to walk past his shop during the day you would hear his radio playing. He preferred old time music and the waltz was a favorite. He

never quite got the hang of the polka though, although he tried to learn. At the age of 65, with no musical experience, he began taking concertina lessons from George Servatius of Melrose, and learned to play for his own enjoyment. He was always willing to share a song he had learned with his kids or grandkids.

Doug enjoyed riding his 4-wheeler up the railroad tracks with his dogs Sparky and Purdy checking on the many birdhouses he had made and nailed to the trees up and down the tracks. Doug loved his family. If any of his kids or grandkids needed anything and he if he could, he was there and always willing to help out. One thing he always told us as we left either Kapp's Kafe or their house, "drive careful and call when you get home". He was a good grandpa and his grandkids have lots of good memories and funny stories about time spent with "Grandpa Bertha", AKA "Grandpa French Fry".

Doug loved animals probably to a fault. He had a special place in his heart for those that were homeless or hungry. At the Rainbow Bridge, there will be many little souls waiting to greet him.

Doug enjoyed his life. He was a very social person who loved to visit with people about anything and everything. He was a selfless man, more giving to others than himself. He felt what he had in life was enough. Throughout his life he made many friends and enjoyed life to the fullest.

Doug was immensely proud of his military service. He was a member of the William Larson Post #366 of Bertha for over 70 years and a long-time member of the Wadena VFW. He and Kathryn were members of the Bertha Church of God and Faith United Church of Christ in Bertha. He became a resident of Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa in the fall of 2017 and resided there until his death. His passing has left a huge void in the lives of the people

who knew and loved him, but we know he and Kathryn are together again and probably dancing to their favorite, The Saturday Night Waltz.

Preceding Doug in death were his wife Kathryn on November 30, 2017; parents Francis and Maude; son-in-law, Rick Hansen; great-grandson, Cooper; and in-laws Charles and Grace Franklin.

He is survived by his children Gene (Sandy) Kapphahn of Hewitt, Vicki (Wayne) Hansen of Browerville, and Candy (Jim Blake) Hennagir of New York Mills; 9 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandsons; and brother Darrel (Betty) of Eagle Bend.

Serving as pallbearers will be all of Doug's grandchildren

Burial will be held at a later date in Woodside Cemetery, Wrightstown, MN.

Military honors provided by the William Larson American Legion Post #366 of Bertha and Minnesota Army Guard Honor Guard (MNAGHG).

# Cemetery Details

## Woodside Cemetery (Wrightstown)

Woodside Cemetery  
Parkers Prairie / Hewitt, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

New Life Church of God  
401 Main St. - West  
Bertha, MN 56437

## Visitation

JUL 17. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Church of God  
401 Main St. - West  
Bertha, MN 56437

## Service

JUL 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Church of God  
401 Main St. - West  
Bertha, MN 56437



# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - July 14, 2020 at 02:28 PM

SH

*Very nice and respectful video. I remember the Kapphahn family well.*

Sheldon Hedin - July 15, 2020 at 11:04 PM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Barry & Sandi Pratt - September 09, 2020 at 11:57 AM

LK

“ *Lanny & Carol Kolpek lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Lanny & Carol Kolpek - July 17, 2020 at 10:45 AM

WA

“ *Sending our love! Justin, Amanda Cain, Kori, and Aleah Wallner* ”



Wallners - July 16, 2020 at 08:46 PM

JW

“ *Thoughts, prayers and love sent to all.* ”



Justin, Amanda, Cain, Kori, Aleah Wallne - July 16, 2020 at 08:42 PM

PW

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Patty Wallner - July 16, 2020 at 12:04 PM

DB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



Darrel & Betty - July 15, 2020 at 06:58 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Darrel & Betty - July 15, 2020 at 06:55 PM

TK

“ Sure going to miss you grandpa more than you could have ever known. Thank you for all the great memories. Love you and grandma.

Troy kapphahn - July 15, 2020 at 05:12 PM

LT

“ My condolences to Gene and the rest of family. Doug had a great run! I have good memories of him. This earth is a better place because of him. RIP Doug...a life well lived.

Les Thorstenson - July 15, 2020 at 08:48 AM

NB

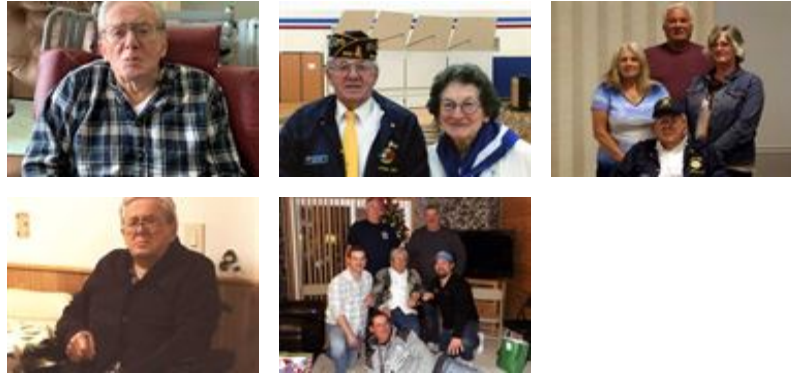
“ Getting to know Doug was an experience and a friendship I will never forget. Making a Quilt of Valor for him will always stay with me.



Nathan Blashack - July 14, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - July 14, 2020 at 02:12 PM

KD

“ As a teenager it was rewarding to visit with Doug because he treated me as an adult, had a real knack for listening to what I had to say, and engaged in a valuable back and forth, give and take conversation. Thinking that a kid might have something worthwhile to say isn't found in every adult, but Doug had that approach.



Ken Dittberner - July 14, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Doug Kappahn.



July 13, 2020 at 10:45 PM

EF

“ *Esther And Alan Freitag lit a candle in memory of Doug Kappahn*



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**Esther and Alan Freitag** - July 13, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Doug Kappahn.*



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July 13, 2020 at 08:58 PM

AZ

“ *Prayers to your entire family! I think Doug has a special place in all of our hearts as Kapp's Cafe was our hangout and he was always so welcoming and had to make his rounds to talk to everyone! So many good memories 💕*

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**Angie Zundel** - July 13, 2020 at 08:40 PM

JB

“ *Janice Bastian lit a candle in memory of Doug Kappahn*



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**Janice Bastian** - July 13, 2020 at 07:47 PM

EB

“ *Elaine Bistrum lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Elaine Bistrum** - July 13, 2020 at 04:15 PM

BS

“ *Our sympathies to the Kapphahn family. Doug was always so supportive of the school and so good to the kids that frequented the Kapps cafe!*

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**Bob and Deb Sieling** - July 12, 2020 at 11:31 PM

MW

“ *Myron And Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Myron and Karen Winkelman** - July 12, 2020 at 10:00 PM

 Alan Schumacher

“ *Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Alan Schumacher** - July 12, 2020 at 09:44 PM

JJ

“ RIP Doug you will be missed by all..

Jack & Sharon Johnson - July 12, 2020 at 03:42 PM

WJ

“ Wilferd & Shirley Johnson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kappahn



Wilferd & Shirley Johnson - July 12, 2020 at 03:24 PM

TS

“ Ted And Sarah lit a candle in memory of Doug Kappahn



Ted and Sarah - July 12, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Doug Kappahn.



July 11, 2020 at 10:46 AM

GZ

“ RIP Doug! My sympathy to the family.

Gene Ziegenhagen - July 10, 2020 at 08:49 PM

KZ

“ *Karen Ziemkowski lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Karen Ziemkowski** - July 10, 2020 at 05:57 PM

TS

“ *Teresa Sorenson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Teresa Sorenson** - July 10, 2020 at 04:37 PM

TS

“ Our condolences and prayers are with the Kapphahn families on Douglas’s passing. I would like you to know how proud I was knowing your dad, as a friend and veteran. I will truly miss our visits and sharing Circus Peanuts. He had served our country with honor and pride. I know I will always remember him with memories, and continue because he is in our hearts forever and watching over everyone with a grin and smile with his kitties and Katheryn by his side. I have enclosed a poem. Take care.

*A Hero’s Welcome*

*By Robert Longley*

*Time to come home dear brother*

*Your tour of duty through*

*You’ve given as much as anyone*

*Could be expected to do*

*Just a few steps further*

*The smoke will start to clear*

*Others here will guide you*

*You have no need of fear*

*You have not failed your brothers*

*You clearly gave it all*

*And through your selfless actions*

*Others will hear the call*

*So take your place of honor*

*Among those who have gone before*

*And know you will be remembered*

*For now and evermore.*

*Todd County Veteran Services, Pete Berscheit, Teresa Sorenson,  
Tina Riedel*

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**Teresa Sorenson** - July 10, 2020 at 04:35 PM

MH

“ *Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Marladene Heinen** - July 10, 2020 at 02:59 PM

SK

“ *Steve & Janet Kneisl lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Steve & Janet Kneisl** - July 10, 2020 at 01:39 PM

GG

“ *Ginger & Roland Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Ginger & Roland Gilbert** - July 10, 2020 at 10:28 AM

TS

“ *Tom and Janet Spahn.*



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**Tom and Janet Spahn** - July 09, 2020 at 11:32 PM

DL

“ *Dean Larson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Dean Larson** - July 09, 2020 at 11:10 PM

DL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Kapphahn families on the passing of your Dad, Doug. My parents (Duane and Pearl) spent some memorable moments with Doug at Kapp's Kafe. Doug and my Dad were only 3 months apart in age and always had some great stories about Bertha and its townspeople back in the day. Hold onto those great memories of your Dad and keep bringing his name up so you don't forget the good person he was to family and friends alike. Each happiness of yesterday is a memory for tomorrow. Take care. Dean Larson (Class of 1970).*



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**Dean Larson** - July 09, 2020 at 10:37 PM

AA

“ *Arlys Andrews lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Arlys Andrews** - July 09, 2020 at 10:24 PM

RA

“ Roger & JoAnn Anderson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Roger & JoAnn Anderson - July 09, 2020 at 07:28 PM

DV

“ Dorothy Voge lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Dorothy Voge - July 09, 2020 at 07:23 PM

TC

“ Tabitha Captain lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Tabitha Captain - July 09, 2020 at 06:03 PM

BD

“ Bob And Kathy Derby lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Bob and Kathy Derby - July 09, 2020 at 05:05 PM

GM

“ Gene And Mary lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Gene and Mary - July 09, 2020 at 04:21 PM

GD

“ Gene And Mary Denny lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Gene and Mary Denny - July 09, 2020 at 04:20 PM

RG

“ Roseann Graphenteen lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Roseann Graphenteen - July 09, 2020 at 03:54 PM

LK

“ Lanny & Carol Kolpek lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn



Lanny & Carol Kolpek - July 09, 2020 at 03:38 PM

LH

“ *Leo Haisman lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Leo Haisman - July 09, 2020 at 12:56 PM

Jl

“ *We will always have wonderful memories of your ma and dad. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. Love you all. Jerry and Irene*



Jerry and Irene - July 09, 2020 at 12:17 PM

DT

“ *Diane Teigland lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Diane Teigland - July 09, 2020 at 12:14 PM

IH

“ *Ida Hennagir lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



Ida Hennagir - July 09, 2020 at 10:57 AM

RK

“ *Rich & Mavis Kendall lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Rich & Mavis Kendall** - July 09, 2020 at 10:36 AM

RA

“ *Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Rita Anderson** - July 09, 2020 at 09:20 AM

CB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. My son Nathan was blessed to get to know Doug 2 years ago through his 6th grade class visiting at the Care Center. Nathan enjoyed getting to know Doug and listening to his stories. The friendship and memories have left a lasting impression on Nathan. He was so proud to present Doug with his Quilt of Valor. We are so sorry to hear of his passing, but know he his watching over all of us with a smile.*  
*Matt & Carla Blashack Family*



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**Carla Blashack** - July 09, 2020 at 09:01 AM

SO

“ *Sharyl Olson lit a candle in memory of Doug Kapphahn*



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**Sharyl Olson** - July 08, 2020 at 10:05 PM

DW

*I am so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. He was always so great to have a visit with and always asked about the family. i will not be able to attend the service (I am on Chemo) but would certainly like to be there. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. DeEtta Kapphahn Watts (Dee)*

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**DeEtta Watts** - July 13, 2020 at 05:07 PM