



Laurel Einerwold

December 21, 1951 - January 7, 2026

Please join the Laurel Einerwold family as they gather to celebrate his life and to share stories, food, and time together remembering him. Stop by to share a memory and spend time with others who knew and cared about him at the Prairie Event Center in Parkers Prairie, MN from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25.

At noon there will be a Shared Reflection time (20 minutes) and toast honoring Laurel's life, including a reading of pre-submitted memories from friends and family.

Submit a Memory or Story:

The family is collecting short stories about Laurel to be read during the Shared Reflection time. Send a favorite memory, adventure, Laurel saying, or anything else that is on your heart or mind. We would love to include it.

Please email your written or voice-recorded story before April 20, to:
chelseajo218@gmail.com

Subject line: Laurel Memory

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Laurel Gene Einerwold was born on December 21, 1951, in Bertha, MN, to William and Geneva Einerwold. He was the third-born child in the family and was given the middle name "Gene" after his mother. He lived most of his life on his farm near Eagle Bend, a place that shaped who he was and where he felt most at home. He died unexpectedly at his farm on January 7, 2026.

Laurel attended Eagle Bend High School, where he was involved in many activities including band, choir, football, basketball, baseball, and theater. He was selected as his high school's representative for Boys State Prep in 1968, a civics and leadership program sponsored by the American Legion. He graduated in 1969 and attended Moorhead State University for one year.

A lifelong hard worker, Laurel held a variety of jobs over the years. He farmed for 50 years, beginning in 1975 when he purchased his own farm adjacent to his parents. He continued farming, eventually moving to the family farm in the early 2000s. In addition to farming, he held a variety of jobs over his working years, holding positions with Ames Sand and Gravel, General Nutrition Mills, Eagle Bend Produce, Long Prairie Sanitation, and the Long Prairie Fleet. Most recently, he was a driver for many of his Amish neighbors and friends, relationships he valued deeply.

Laurel was a Minnesota sports fan through and through, faithfully cheering on the Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, and Gophers – in good times and in bad. He loved jokes and good stories, both telling them and hearing them, and didn't take life too seriously.

Laurel loved the outdoors and was happiest when he was outside. He enjoyed campfires, giving hayrides on the farm, fishing, annual deer hunting with family, and sharing meals. He loved to sing and was a member of the church choir earlier in life. He was a collector of vintage farm and country items.

Laurel was married to Renae Olson from 1970-1975, and they had two children, Ryan and Randy. He was also married to JoEllen (Dittrich) Reeck from 1980-1997 and had two more children, Christopher and Chelsea.

For the past 11 years, Laurel shared his life with his partner, Charlotte

Aspengren. They spent time both at the farm and at her home in Pocatello, ID, enjoying adventures and time together.

Laurel had many meaningful friendships throughout his life. He deeply missed friends Danny Lorentz and Dale Perkins. He stayed in close contact with his good friend Rick Olek, and his good friend and cousin, Byron Wheeler. He was especially grateful for the friendship and support of Rick Host, with whom he shared both work and camaraderie on their respective farms.

The past few years brought many health challenges for Laurel. He pursued care and support, and his family remains committed to honoring his full life.

Laurel was preceded in death by his parents, William and Geneva Einerwold, and brother-in-law, Jim Hansmeyer. He is survived by his siblings: Candy (Jim) Hansmeyer, Larry (Sue) Einerwold, and Karin (Curt) Muth. Laurel especially admired his older sister Candy and often answered questions with, "Ask Candy," having full confidence that she would know. He is also survived by his children: Ryan Dean, Randy Einerwold, Christopher (Amber) Einerwold, and Chelsea (Christian) Ornelas; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; along with aunts, uncles, cousins, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Laurel's life will be held this spring or early summer. More details will be shared when available.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Open House

APR **25**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Prairie Event Center  
201 Main St.  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

# Tribute Wall

PB

“*Paul, Celeste, and James Bearden purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Laurel Einerwold.*



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**Paul, Celeste, and James Bearden** - April 15 at 01:12 PM

BW

“*Laurel and I grew up as two ornery boys born to sisters, and from the start that bond meant something special. We shared a lifetime of good times—fishing lines tangled more than once, lightning firecrackers that probably weren't the best idea, and plenty of laughs over a beer or two. Life moved fast, but those moments slowed it down in the best way. Laurel wasn't just my cousin; he was my friend, my partner in mischief, and someone who made the journey richer just by being there. I was lucky to have him in my life, and I'll always be grateful for the memories we made and the bond we shared.*

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**Byron Wheeler** - January 24 at 09:48 AM

BW

“*Laurel and I grew up as two ornery boys born to sisters, and from the start that bond meant something special. We shared a lifetime of good times—fishing lines tangled more than once, lightning firecrackers that probably weren’t the best idea, and plenty of laughs over a beer or two. Life moved fast, but those moments slowed it down in the best way. Laurel wasn’t just my cousin; he was my friend, my partner in mischief, and someone who made the journey richer just by being there. I was lucky to have him in my life, and I’ll always be grateful for the memories we made and the bond we shared.*”

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**Byron Wheeler** - January 23 at 08:30 PM

ZE

“*Laurel and great grandson William*”



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**Zackry Einerwold** - January 22 at 09:27 AM

JE

*Laurel was very proud of his family. He was very kind, had a good sense of humor and will be missed. My sympathy to his family, treasure his memory.*

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**Joyce Ehnes** - January 22 at 10:58 AM

SP

“ *Laurel, took me under his wing after my dad passed. He would text me often. Checking on me or sending me pictures of the Taco Stew he made, knives, guns, deer hunting pictures, news articles. The list goes on and on. He and my dad were so close, so Laurel's continued contact with me meant so much. He is in my heart and I miss him dearly.*

Sarah Perkins - January 21 at 10:43 PM

ZE

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Zara Einerwold - January 22 at 11:16 AM

WJ

“ *We sure do miss his visits, phone calls, news of relatives, and most of all caring and concern of everyone. Thinking of you all.*



Wilferd & Shirley Johnson - January 21 at 04:55 PM

WE

“ *1 file added to the album tribute wall*



William Lawrence Einerwold - January 21 at 02:04 PM

GM

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
Roger and Gloria Muth*

**Gloria Muth** - January 22 at 07:04 AM

AN

“ *Alice (Davison) Nelson lit a candle in memory  
of Laurel Einerwold*



**Alice (Davison) Nelson** - January 20 at 03:52 PM



“ *Renae Olson lit a candle in memory of Laurel  
Einerwold*



**Renae Olson** - January 19 at 02:57 PM

FA

“ *Faye Arntson sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Laurel Einerwold*



**Faye Arntson** - January 15 at 02:29 PM

DO

“ Dale & Denise Olson lit a candle in memory of Laurel Einerwold



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**Dale & Denise Olson** - January 15 at 11:13 AM

PL

“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Laurel Einerwold



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**Pat Lorentz** - January 15 at 10:49 AM

JM

“ I will always remember Uncle Laurel's sense of humor. He had the best jokes and could always make you laugh. Maybe why I thought Laurel knew an Ole and Lena.

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**Jacob Muth** - January 14 at 11:31 PM

SS

“ I have known Laurel almost my whole life. Sending prayers and big hugs to the family. Sue (Hamilton) Stracek

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**Sue (Hamilton) Stracek** - January 14 at 09:50 PM

JE

“ *Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Laurel  
Einerwold*



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**Judy Erdahl** - January 14 at 07:54 PM