



Milton Cunningham

February 24, 1935 - April 20, 2018

The Memorial Mass for Milton “Milt” Cunningham of Wadena, will be celebrated at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 27, at St. Ann's Catholic Church, with Father Aaron Kuhn as celebrant. A visitation will take place at the church from 9:30 AM until the time of Mass. And will include a Rosary at 10:00 a.m. At the age of 83, Milton passed away with family by his side at the Grand Arbors Assisted Living by Knute Nelson in Alexandria on April 20, 2018.

Milton (Milt) Cunningham was born to Charles and Laura (Pratt) Cunningham, in Cresbard, SD on February 24th, 1935. He attended a prairie schoolhouse where his lifelong passion for reading began. After high school, he served in the US Army from 1954-56. While on leave, he met his wife of 60 years, Delores Barondeau, and swept her off her feet on the dance floor of the Onaka Town Hall with his enviable dance moves. They were wed on September 17, 1957 at St. John the Baptist Church in Onaka, SD and were blessed with 5 children. Side by side, they farmed near Cresbard, living close to the land, raising livestock and producing bountiful vegetable gardens. Milt had a true affinity with animals and often told of his pleasure in the quiet stillness of a cold spring morning witnessing the birth of a calf or lamb.

Milt enjoyed other bounties of nature through hunting, trapping and fishing and used his resourceful nature in the hobbies of reloading, fly fish tying and taxidermy. He had a gift for rhythms and music and loved to improvise on the harmonica or guitar with his older brother on the banjo. His make-it-yourself

philosophy of life was an example to many of how a home grown, handmade, self-sufficient life reveals that the more simple we are, the more complete we become.

In 1976, the awe of the woodlands brought Milt and his family to Minnesota, where he farmed north of Wadena and also worked as a pressman at Homecrest, until his retirement in 1997. Then he'd be found at his woodcarving bench, reading, trying to out-fish Delores on Pelican Bay, playing cards with friends, and stewarding nature by planting hundreds of trees. Milt will be remembered for living his faith through his love of family, friends, and serving as surrogate dad to nieces, nephews and friends who had lost parents; for his neighborliness, volunteerism, and awareness of the hand of God in the natural world.

Milt was preceded in death by his spouse, Delores on November 4, 2017; parents Charles and Laura Cunningham; infant son, Joseph; brothers Ernest and Robert; sister Leah Cowhick; and canine companion, Sam.

He will be forever loved by his surviving family, sons Mike (Nancy) of Lincoln, IL; Mark (Denise) of Concord, NC; Chuck (Anne) of Lidgerwood, ND; Shawn (Kris) of Hutchinson, MN; daughter Lisa (Randy) of Avon, MN; 8 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren; and sister Rosalie Bowar of Aberdeen, SD.

Honorary pallbearers are his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Inurnment will be held at a later date at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Onaka, SD.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred and family suggest they be directed to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 27. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Service

APR 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Milton Cunningham



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - April 25, 2018 at 10:13 AM

BP

“ Milt was a good friend and enjoyed his help when we were at woodcarving. Found it interesting, too, when we talked about the Pratt's since in their family tree. He will be missed. He had such a friendly spirit. Sandi & Barry Pratt

Barry & Sandi Pratt - May 01, 2018 at 08:46 AM

BT

“ Our sympathy to the Cunningham family. Milt was such a nice gentle man.
Barb and Phil Thoennes



Barbara Thoennes - April 25, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Milton Cunningham.*



April 25, 2018 at 11:58 AM



“ *44 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - April 25, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ *Marcia Liebig lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Marcia Liebig - April 25, 2018 at 08:20 AM

MH

“ *Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*

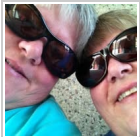


Marladene Heinen - April 24, 2018 at 06:52 PM

DA

“ *Milt & Delores were wonderful partners in the stewardship of God's Great earth. I feel privileged to have known them, enjoying their wisdom & friendliness. God bless our memories & inspire us. Di Schiller Anderson*

di anderson - April 24, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ *Rocky Reese lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Rocky Reese - April 23, 2018 at 10:20 AM

DK

“ *Dan Kern lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Dan Kern - April 23, 2018 at 05:07 AM

KW

“ *Kathy Widmer lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



kathy widmer - April 23, 2018 at 01:32 AM

PA

“ *Polly Anderson lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



polly anderson - April 23, 2018 at 01:12 AM

PA

Our hearts and prayers are with you at this time of great loss. Love, the Calvin Anderson family

polly anderson - April 23, 2018 at 01:13 AM

KA

“ *Kathy Angus lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Kathy Angus - April 22, 2018 at 08:20 PM

SH

“ Sharon Heinen lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Sharon Heinen - April 22, 2018 at 08:11 PM

BH

“ Bob & Donna Haman lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Bob & Donna Haman - April 22, 2018 at 01:28 PM

JB

“ Milt was the person who showed me how to run the dish washer at St Ann"s. I will miss your friendship my friend , rest in peace



Jim and Lorie Baron - April 22, 2018 at 08:58 AM

MM

“ Marjorie Mohs-Harrison lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Marjorie Mohs-Harrison - April 22, 2018 at 07:59 AM

HH

Thinking you, Milton and your family at this time

Harry and Marge Harrison - April 22, 2018 at 08:02 AM

MF

“*Marie Fraune lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Marie Fraune - April 21, 2018 at 10:31 PM

ST

“*Sue Theisen lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Sue Theisen - April 21, 2018 at 09:17 PM

BW

“*Bob & Phyllis Wilkening lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham*



Bob & Phyllis Wilkening - April 21, 2018 at 08:32 PM

JB

“Joyce And Bruce Boyne lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Joyce and Bruce Boyne - April 21, 2018 at 06:31 PM

MR

“Mark & Brenda Reger lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Mark & Brenda Reger - April 21, 2018 at 06:24 PM

CS

“Charlotte Stemson lit a candle in memory of Milton Cunningham



Charlotte Stemson - April 21, 2018 at 05:03 PM

JB

“Milt was the one who showed me how to run the dishwasher at St Ann"s.I sure enjoyed our friendship.Rest in Peace my friend.

Jim and Lorie Baron - April 21, 2018 at 03:37 PM