



Roy Koechel

August 28, 1926 - January 5, 2016

The funeral service for Roy Koechel, of Hewitt, will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, January 8, at the United Methodist Church in Wrightstown with Pastors Jean-Claude Duncan and Mark Bateson presiding. Visitation will be held on Thursday at the Domian-Anderson Chapel in Bertha from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and at the church on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Roy peacefully passed away January 5, 2016, from kidney failure and complications at the age of 89, at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena, MN.

Roy was born on August 28, 1926, in Solway, MN, to Ben and Mary (Rausch) Koechel. When he was about ten years old, he and his family moved to a farm west of Bertha. He lived there until he bought his current farm where he lived for the next 65 years. Roy attended country school through the eighth grade; he later received an honorary high school diploma through Operation Recognition for service to his country. At the age of 18, he entered the Army and served for the next two years. After his honorable discharge, he worked as a dairy farmer until the early 1990s when he sold his herd. He then continued to crop farm until he was in his early-eighties.

On July 17, 1954, Roy married Betty Goodale at the Wrightstown Evangelical United Brethren Church. They were married for 50 years and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary just two months before she passed away from cancer. They had two children: Joanie and David.

Roy was a member of the Otter Tail County Dairy Herd Improvement Association and consistently raised some of the top-producing cows in Otter Tail County. In his limited spare time he enjoyed league bowling, attending horse sales and horse shows, as well as raising his own horses, watching baseball, and listening to polka music. Roy was a very good welder and made many of his own farm equipment repairs. In addition, he was an avid reader of the local newspapers, farm magazines, and western novels. After selling the cows, Roy and Betty enjoyed spending time with their friends and traveling to Texas and other parts of the U. S.

Roy served as a trustee of the Wrightstown United Methodist Church and was a former adult leader for the Woodside Workers 4-H club. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his three grandchildren. He loved teasing them and giving them rides on tractors, the four-wheeler, the riding lawn mower, or any other piece of farm equipment they wanted to ride on.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Ben and Mary; wife Betty, and sister Erna and brother-in-law "Ray" Gibson. He is survived by his children Joanie (David) Zirbes of Parkers Prairie, and David (Kristi) Koechel of Garland, TX; niece Rebecca Gibson and nephew Bill (MaryAnn) Gibson, CO. He is also survived by grandchildren Kyle (Jenn Yelle) Zirbes of Roseville; Christina Zirbes of Wadena; and Bethany Koechel of Garland, TX; and several cousins.

Honorary pallbearers will be Bethany Koechel, Christina Zirbes, Harry Wood, Kieth Schwantz, Ted Bertram, and Arvid Fischer. Active pallbearers will be Kyle Zirbes, Art Packard, Mike Schwantz, Morris Dahl, John Schwantz, and David Bertram.

Military honors will be provided by the Minnesota National Guard Honor Guard.

Burial will be in Woodside Cemetery, Wrightstown, MN.

Cemetery Details

Woodside Cemetery (Wrightstown)

Woodside Cemetery
Parkers Prairie / Hewitt, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Domian-Anderson Chapel
309 2nd Avenue NW
Bertha, MN 56437
(218) 924-4000

Visitation

JAN 8. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church - Wrightstown
21494 Church Road
Hewitt, MN 56453

Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church - Wrightstown
21494 Church Road
Hewitt, MN 56453

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Roy Koechel*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - January 07, 2016 at 10:22 AM

RG

Beautiful!

Rebecca Gibson - January 07, 2016 at 01:49 PM

PH

What an awesome trail of memories & dreams for this family,,,,,, may you find peace , a healthy body , & loved ones to greet you

Pam & Greg Harper - January 07, 2016 at 06:50 PM

SH

Wonderful tribute!

Scott & Donna Harper - January 07, 2016 at 07:36 PM

DA

I loved this tribute! What a wonderful way to share memories.

Donna Andreason - January 07, 2016 at 10:41 PM

MM

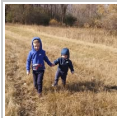
A beautiful tribute to a wonderful man! Praying that the legacy he leaves behind will fill your hearts with comfort and peace, knowing that he lived life well. I have such good memories of Uncle Roy's sense of humor, his kindness, (even though he had a tendency to tease unmercifully!) and his devotion to Aunt Betty and all his family. May God comfort you with his love and mercy, and quickly turn your mourning into joy, knowing that Roy is in His everlasting arms.

Mary McBride - January 08, 2016 at 12:12 AM

TH

Remarkable man. Roy was a Christian farmer, and his kids were a pleasure to have in class. Proof of his stewardship!

Tim Hjelmeland - January 14, 2016 at 03:21 PM



Thank you!

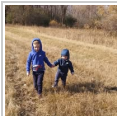
Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:25 PM

DT

“ *Our most sincere sympathy to you and your family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. God Bless.*



Dennis & Susan Thiel - January 08, 2016 at 07:45 AM

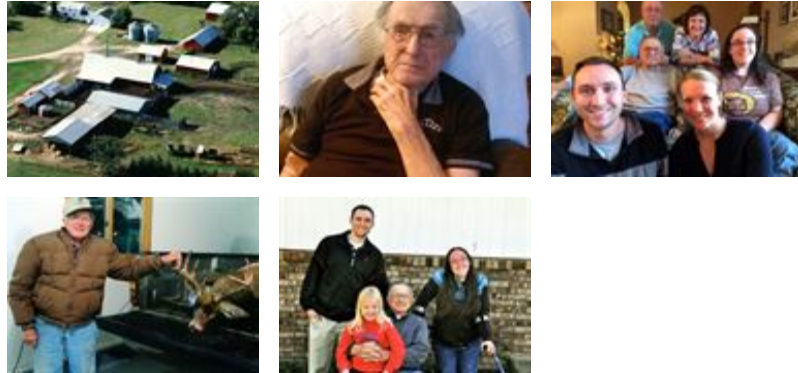


Thank you.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:24 PM



“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



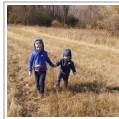
Schuller Family Funeral Homes - January 07, 2016 at 10:17 AM

JD

“ John And Rhonda Dittberner sent a virtual gift in memory of Roy Koechel



John and Rhonda Dittberner - January 07, 2016 at 09:20 AM



Thanks.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:25 PM

BF

“ Barbie, Mary, Joanne and Families purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Roy Koechel.



Barbie, Mary, Joanne and Families - January 07, 2016 at 08:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roy Koechel.*



January 06, 2016 at 09:21 PM



“ *Sandy South lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



Sandy South - January 06, 2016 at 08:57 PM



Thank you.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:24 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about your loss. Prayers for your family. Remember he is now in the arms of our Lord, how wonderful is that. God Bless.*

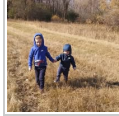
Sandy South - January 06, 2016 at 08:52 PM



“ *Roland & Ginger Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



Roland & Ginger Gilbert - January 06, 2016 at 04:30 PM



Thanks.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:26 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roy Koechel.*



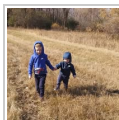
January 06, 2016 at 04:28 PM



“ *Marilyn McKay lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



Marilyn McKay - January 06, 2016 at 03:30 PM



Thanks, Marilyn.

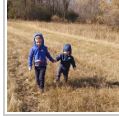
Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:26 PM



“ *Keith And Janice Bastian lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



Keith and Janice Bastian - January 06, 2016 at 07:36 AM



Thanks.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:27 PM

KB

“ *Keith and Janice Bastian*



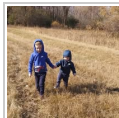
Keith and Janice Bastian - January 06, 2016 at 07:33 AM

KH

“ *Kevin Hennagir lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



Kevin Hennagir - January 06, 2016 at 07:21 AM



Thanks, Kevin.

Joan Zirbes - January 14, 2016 at 07:28 PM

JB

“ *John And Audrey Blashack lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel*



John and Audrey Blashack - January 06, 2016 at 06:08 AM

DA

“ Donna And Tim Andreason lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Donna and Tim Andreason - January 05, 2016 at 10:12 PM

SK

“ Steve And Janet Kneisl lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Steve and Janet Kneisl - January 05, 2016 at 07:58 PM

WJ

“ Wilferd & Shirley Johnson lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Wilferd & Shirley Johnson - January 05, 2016 at 05:39 PM

GS

“ Gene And Tami Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Gene and Tami Schwartz - January 05, 2016 at 05:17 PM

GK

“ Gene & Sandy Kapphahn lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Gene & Sandy Kapphahn - January 05, 2016 at 03:33 PM

RG

“ Joan and David and your families,
The loss of someone dear to us is never easy. I hope all the cherished memories that you have of your Dad brings you peace.
My deepest condolences.
Rebecca Gibson

Rebecca Gibson - January 05, 2016 at 03:21 PM

GW

“ Glenn And Doris Winter lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Glenn and Doris Winter - January 05, 2016 at 02:58 PM

DO

“ Doug And Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of Roy Koechel



Doug and Joan Ostlund - January 05, 2016 at 02:49 PM