

Maynard Duane Helgaas, 87, of West Fargo, North Dakota and former longtime resident of Jamestown, North Dakota passed away on August 2 of complications from Alzheimer's Disease. Dad was born on the family farm on December 13, 1934 to Adolph and Mildred Helgaas in Fertile, Minnesota. His birth certificate says that Adolph delivered him when he was born.

Dad graduated from Central High School in Crookston, MN. He chose to attend North Dakota State University to play football and graduated with a degree in Agriculture Economics in 1958. While attending NDSU, he was a member of the AGR fraternity. Dad met Mom (Jean Ann Nelson) at NDSU when he was working in the kitchen as a table bus boy at the Gamma Phi sorority house. Mom was homecoming queen at NDSU and the table bus boy married the homecoming queen on June 27, 1957 in Milner, North Dakota. They were married for 39 years before Jean passed away in 1996 of Scleroderma at the age of 59. Jean and Maynard have four children Julie, Ann, Kathryn and John. Dad married Julie Schauer in Jamestown, North Dakota in 1997. They were married for 25 years until Julie passed away on April 21, 2022. Julie has three children Jim, Sarah and Tom. Dad was involved with agriculture his entire life, starting with working on the family farm in Fertile, MN. After college, he began his career as a Clay County Extension Agent, then became Branch Manager with Production Credit Association in Wahpeton, ND and Crookston, MN.

In 1964, Dad and his father-in-law Elwood Nelson, purchased Jamestown Implement in Jamestown, North Dakota. The family business grew into six John Deere dealerships, a New Holland dealership, a diesel service business, an agriculture supply and service company, an irrigation equipment company, and a lease company. In 1976 Dad became a partner in an irrigated farming operation in central North Dakota eventually growing some of the first potatoes that were processed by the French fry plant that he recruited to open in Jamestown.

After 30 years in the family business, he retired in 1994 and spent the next six years as President of the Central Dakota Growers, a seven-county green field potato project. After Central Dakota Growers, Dad was President of the Green Vision Group of Fargo, a company that investigated and promoted the energy beet industry. He was Chairman of the North Dakota Implement Dealers Association and the North American Equipment Dealers Association. Dad was a founding member and president of two foundations: Foundation for the Advancement of Christian Education (FACE), and the North American Equipment Dealers Foundation. He served on many boards including Ottertail Power, Jamestown School Board, Stutsman County Bank, Central Dakota Growers, Central Vegetable Growers and Garrison Diversion Project. Dad received many awards including the John Deere "Top 20 Dealers Award" and the North Dakota National Leadership Award of Excellence. In 2012, he was inducted into the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Dad was a natural entrepreneur which began when he was in school when he would gather coal along railroad tracks and sell the coal to pay for his school activities. He had a love of the outdoors including hunting and fishing. Dad loved raising pheasants and hunting with friends and family at the Dawson, ND cabin. Along with friends and family, Dad built a cabin on Lake Amisk, Saskatchewan in the late 1960s and went fishing there every year of his life until COVID. Dad was a lifelong Bison season ticket holder and rarely missed a Bison football game. He attended many Bison football championship games in Frisco, Texas. When Dad lived in Jamestown, he supported high school activities and enjoyed watching his kids and grandkids at their sporting events. Dad believed strongly in his community and his state and devoted much of his time in the development of both.

Dad is survived by his four children Julie (Dale) Dunwoodie, Ann (Todd) Kumm, Kathryn (Doug) Burgum and John (April) Helgaas, his grandchildren Michael Sitzmann, Hannah (Sawyer) Smith, Chelsey Sitzmann, Katie (Ben) LeCompte, Nathan (Allison) Dunwoodie, Sadie (Jacob) Dunwoodie, Victoria (Rachel) Stack, AJ Helgaas, Brekken Helgaas, Helaina Helgaas, Katrina (Eileen) Kumm, Allison (Casey) Bergquist, Mallory Kumm and his great grandchildren Madelyn Dunwoodie, Brody Dunwoodie, Fallyn Stack, Rylynn LeCompte, Benji LeCompte, Francis Kelly, and Gio Kelly. He is also survived by sisters Jeanette (Monroe) Hagen, Carol (Bob) Wagner, Linda (Ed) Wylde and Mary Kay (Art) Relling, and sister-in-law Joan Tuma.

Dad was preceded in death by his parents Adolph and Mildred, his father and mother-in-law Elwood and Helen Nelson, his step-father Fred, his sister Laverne Rongen, her husband Chuck Rongen, and brother-in-law Bob Tuma.

# Maynard Duane Helgaas

December 13, 1934 – August 2, 2022





God looked down on the earth He created and said, "I need a caretaker for this world I have made": and so,

**God Made a Farmer...**

God said, "I need someone ready to get up before dawn and milk the cows, til the fields, milk the cows again, and then go to town and stay past midnight at the meeting of the school board":

**So God Made a Farmer...**

"I need someone with strong arms, strong enough to wrestle a calf, but gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; Somebody to call the hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry and have to wait for lunch until his wife is done entertaining visiting ladies, and then tell the ladies "I hope you all come back real soon:, and mean it, and so

**God Made a Farmer...**

God said, "I need somebody to sit up all night with a newborn colt and watch it die; then dry his eyes and say, maybe next year". I need someone to shape an anx handle from a Persimmon sprout, and shoe a horse with a hunk of tire; make a harness out of haywire, feedsacks and shoe scraps; who at planting time and harvest will finish his 40 hour week by noon Tuesday, then paining from tractor back, put in another 72".

**So God Made a Farmer...**

God had to have someone ride the ruts at double speed, to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds, and yet stop in mid field to race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.

**So God Made a Farmer...**

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, and yet gentle enough to tame lambs, wean pigs and tend the pink combed pullets; who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a Meadow Lark;"

**So God Made a Farmer...**

It had to be someone who would plow deep and straight and not cut corners; Somebody to seed and weed, feed and breed, rake and disk and plow and plant; plow the snow and strain the milk and replenish the self feeder and finish a hard day's work with a five mile drive to church. Somebody who would bale a family together with the soft, strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply with smiling eyes when his son says he wants to spend his life doing what dad does!

**So God Made a Farmer...**



## Celebrating the Life Of Maynard Helgaas

**BORN**

December 13, 1934

Fertile, Minnesota

**DIED**

August 2, 2022

Fargo, North Dakota

**PRAYER SERVICE**

7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2022

Eddy Funeral Home

**MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

10:00 a.m., Friday, August 5, 2022

St. James Basilica

Monsignor James Shea

Father Neil Pfeifer

**MUSIC**

Accompanist: David Morlock

Cantor: Katie Dubas

*"Here I Am Lord" #394 ~ "On Eagle's Wings" #437*

*"Unless a Grain of Wheat" 328 ~ "Parable" #689*

*"Song of Farewell" #832 ~ "Lead Me Lord" #739*

**READINGS**

First Reading: Job 19:1, 23-27a

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Gospel: John 14:1-6

**PALLBEARERS**

Brekken Helgaas ~ Addison Helgaas ~ Nate Dunwoodie  
Michael Sitzmann ~ Ben LeCompte ~ Sawyer Smith ~ Tom Schauer

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Robert Lamp ~ Eugene Rott ~ Robert Wagner

Monroe Hagen ~ Walt Sanders ~ Ed Wylde

Thundar, Mascot for NDSU Bison

*Maynard's family appreciates your kind expressions of sympathy during this time and wishes to invite all in attendance for a luncheon at the 1883 Club (KC) immediately following the service.*