



*I remain confident of this –  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.*

*Wait for the Lord –  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.*

*Psalms 27:13-14*



HAROLD MARTENS  
1941 – 2023



Harold Martens passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at the Meadows in Swift Current, SK at the age of 81 years.

Harold Arthur Martens was born in Herbert, SK on September 8, 1941 to Eugene & Lydia Martens, and grew up on a ranch northeast of Swift Current with his 5 siblings, attending Leonard and Stewart Valley Schools. Playing ball was a highlight at recess, and riding to and from school often included some friendly racing that the horses loved as much as the kids! They took the light horse team in the winter with the bobsleigh, which was also a peppy ride at times. Playing organized hockey began in Stewart Valley and Harold was the fastest one on skates - the hockey was intense, just how he liked it!

Harold was a man of passion, determination and enthusiasm. Whether it was driving the school bus (at age 17!), driving the new John Deere tractor, learning to be a cowboy, plowing snow, farming or ranching, he made every effort to do his best.

Harold married the joy and love of his life, Sylvia Schroeder, on August 21, 1966. They were blessed with three sons, Tony, Chad and Joe.

He spent his life ranching northeast of Swift Current in partnership with two of his siblings, Gordon (Sonya) Martens and Julie (Curt) Chickoski and their families. Many of the challenges he faced in life were met with determination and a sense of responsibility, always leaning on the strength and wisdom he gained from trusting in God. When his father passed away tragically in 1973, he shouldered the responsibility and worked to continue what his dad had begun at the ranch and in his family. A hockey incident that permanently injured his left leg as a teenager was met with a determination to play goal instead of center, leaving bitterness and blame behind and choosing forgiveness instead. He was an example of a problem-solving, grace-extending, faith-filled man.

He entered the arena of politics with a passion to serve his constituents. He became a council member for the RM, then a Reeve, then a director of the SARM and ultimately the MLA for Morse Constituency in 1982. For 13 years he served his constituents, with the highlight of those years working with Premier Grant Devine as the Assoc. Minister of Agriculture & Food.

Although Harold and Sylvia moved off the ranch and into Swift Current in 2003, he demonstrated his commitment to the agriculture sector by participating and leading various committees and boards, and by connecting with numerous producers in the southwest as a farm equipment salesman. He most recently served as the Reeve of the RM of Excelsior, and was heavily involved with the South Sask. River Watershed Stewards, Sask. Stock Growers Assoc., Sask. Cattlemen's Assoc., Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, and Brand Inspection Services Advisory Committee. He thrived as an agent of change on behalf of Saskatchewan's farm and ranch industry.

Harold's passion for life also showed itself in many ways outside of his work. His church was always a focal point and his relationship with God took top priority. He served in leadership roles at church throughout the years, and took his role as spiritual leader in the home seriously. There were many lively discussions with family over meals together, and he loved the interactions he had with his grandchildren. He prayed for his family daily and loved to hear about the ways that God was interacting with each of them. Harold rested in the assurance that he was saved by grace through faith alone. As a family we rejoice that he is whole and pain free, eternally in the presence of his Lord and Saviour!

Harold is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sylvia Martens; his children, Tony (Michelle) Martens of Dalmeny, SK, Chad (Mona) Martens of Swift Current, SK, Joe (Honey) Martens of Swift Current, SK; grandchildren, Janna, McKinley, Danae, Zachary, Chase, Lincoln, Charmayne; siblings, Gordon (Maureen) Martens, Ruth Martens, Dorothy Martens, Julie (Curt) Chickoski; cousin, Dorothy (Richard) Weetman; sister and brother-in-laws, Alvina (Ed) Rempel, Alfred Schroeder, Pauline (Dean) Power; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Lydia Martens; his parents-in-law, David and Elizabeth Schroeder; his sister, Marina Bergen; sister and brother in laws, John Bergen, Sonya Martens, Arnold and Doreen Schroeder, Annabelle and Menno Martens, and Dorothy Schroeder. Every family member was precious to him, and he mourned the loss of those in his extended family that passed on before him.

In Loving Memory of

# HAROLD MARTENS

BORN - September 8, 1941 at Herbert, SK

PASSED AWAY - January 8, 2023 at Swift Current, SK

## FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, January 13, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Bridgeway Community Church, Swift Current, SK

OFFICIATING - Pastor Bob Cappelle

MUSICIANS - Lionel & Jane Martens

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENT - Pastor Bob

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING - "To God Be the Glory"

OBITUARY AND TRIBUTES - Harold's Grandchildren

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 27, Tony Martens

TRIBUTE - Chad Martens

MEDITATION - Pastor Bob

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING - "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING PRAYER - Pastor Bob

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PHOTO TRIBUTE - Janna Martens

HONORARY PALLBEARERS - Harold & Sylvia's Church Life Group

Hildor & Shirley Braun, Bob & Betty Cappelle,  
Lorraine Funk, Erwin & Lisa Reimer, and Dave & Marg Wieler

PRIVATE FAMILY INTERMENT - Will take place at a later date

LUNCHEON - Immediately following the service

DONATIONS - West Bank Bible Camp

ARRANGEMENTS - Swift Current Funeral Home

*The family wishes to thank the staff and medical team for the excellent care he received at Clover House and House 18 at the Meadows over the past few months.*