

Close the Gate (For Dad)

By Nancy Kraayenhof

For this one farmer the worries are over,
lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough,
put the tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace.
The fences have all been mended.

You raised a fine family, worked the land well and
always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn;
your work here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded,
and here now is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle
left by blessed rain one final time.

You always believed that the good Lord would provide
and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;
no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.



In Memory of
Clarence "Bud" Welbig

November 7, 1936

October 4, 2022

Bud Welbig was born on November 7, 1936, arguably just moments before his sister Marie, to John and Margaret (Hemmer) Welbig. As young twins they made it their mission to bring lively mischief to the family farm. He attended St. Mary School, graduating in 1954. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Army, serving much of his time in Alaska. He returned to the family farm to embrace his true passion of working with the land. He was swept off his feet by Colleen Connor, "the best thing that ever happened to me." They spent many evenings together at the Arkota Ballroom in Sioux Falls. They were married on September 17, 1960 at St. Agatha Catholic Church in Howard, SD.

They grew their family and their farm together west of Dell Rapids for over 40 years, raising eight children, crops and livestock. They moved to town in 1996, however Bud was unable to give up his love of the land and was unfulfilled with simply tending his lawn, so he continued his daily trips to the farm for many years. Their home in Dells became the Gathering Place for weekend meals, evening cocktails and an after school hangout for the grandkids.

He was most proud of the living legacy of his life; his wife who he gave all the credit for raising the family and his children who always amazed him in the way they were all so different. He put all of his love into the way he served the family through his labor. One of Dad's final shares: "It's been a great ride...unbelievable".

Proud to have shared his life are his wife, Colleen Welbig; twin, Sister Lynn Marie Welbig; children, Dan and Diane Welbig of Dell Rapids, Barb Glazier of Dell Rapids, Dale Welbig (1963-1983), Jim and Heidi Welbig of Dell Rapids, Debbie and Dominic Miller of Sioux Falls, Donna Weinacht of Sioux Falls, Julie and Gene Tverberg of Hendricks, Minnesota and Jane and Matt Wood of Dell Rapids; his 23 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Margaret Welbig; his beloved son, Dale; grandson, Derrick Glazier and his siblings, Leon Welbig and Louise Kriens.

In Memory of Clarence "Bud" Welbig



Date of Birth

November 7, 1936

Date of Death

October 4, 2022

Mass of Christian Burial

St. Mary Catholic Church
Dell Rapids, South Dakota

October 7, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant

Fr. Shane Stevens

Casketbearers

Bud's grandchildren will serve as his Casketbearers.

Interment with Military Rites

St. Mary Cemetery

Dell Rapids, South Dakota

October 7, 2022

Dell Rapids Legion Firing Squad