

### ***Remembering the life of....***

Robert "Bob" Steffes, 86, Fargo, ND passed away on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, at Eventide of Fargo.

Bob was born July 30, 1937, at Slayton, MN to Edward and Catherine (Schroeder) Steffes. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> born of 11 children. At age 5, the family moved to Arthur, ND where they farmed, raised cattle (including dairy), and hogs. Bob graduated in 1955 from Arthur High School and continued his schooling at NDSU a short time before returning to the farm. Bob married Jean Skjaret November 15, 1958, making their home in Arthur where they farmed and raised 6 children. Bob attended Auctioneer School in 1959 and in 1960, established his lifelong career as an auctioneer.

These are the facts of Bob's life, but how a person lives a life is more important than the facts. At this point, Bob will become Dad so we can commemorate on a personal level who our dad was.

Grandson Gannon described Dad with 3 words: Determined, passionate, and confident. These words fit Dad throughout his life. In the early years, they culminated with achievement in farming, ultimately receiving the ND Diversified Farmer of the Year award. As an auctioneer they culminated in being named the 1966 Champion of the ND Auctioneers Association and, later, President of the North Dakota Auctioneers Association. In 1972 he became the World's Champion Livestock Auctioneer. He went on to be President of the National Auctioneers Association in 1991, the North Dakota National Leadership Award of Excellence shortly after, and was inducted into the N.A.A. Hall of Fame in 1999. In 1984, son Scott joined Dad in the auction business and together officially became Steffes Auctioneers. In 2018, he was inducted into the Northern Cass (formerly Arthur School) Hall of Fame.

Dad was indeed determined, passionate, and confident, but in 1994, perseverance was added to the list. A car accident changed the physical part of Dad's life, but certainly nothing else. He endured, without complaint, a level of pain that he kept largely to himself (and Mom). Afterall, in Dad's words, "what good does it do to complain".

We can't finish this brief summary of 86 well-lived years without mentioning how important faith and family were to him as well as his ability to tell a good story or joke and his ability to engage in conversation with most anybody. He had many many Ole and Lena jokes that he would use at auctions. He also had many auctionisms, such as "take your time but hurry just a little," or "don't be part of the wishta/woulda crowd" (meaning don't wish you would have bid but didn't).

Robert is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jean; Daughter-in-law, Lori Steffes, sons Scott (Kelly), Rodney (Jamie), and Tyler (Melissa), daughters Marcie (Darin) Pfingsten, and Carrie (Todd) Ham; grandchildren, Cooper (Danielle) Steffes, Jack (Alicia) Steffes, Will Steffes, Micah (Jesse Klein), Max (Ellie) Steffes, Adam (Tia) Steffes, Justin Ruth (Lexi), Ashley (Matt) Halverson, Zachary (Heidi) Pfingsten, Alex Pfingsten, Taryn (Aaron) Pallen, Jesse (Arica) Ham, Jacob (Chantelle) Ham, Cassidy (Nicholas) Nelson, Carter Steffes, Chase Steffes, and Gannon Steffes; and 9 great grandchildren. Siblings, Madalyn Reilly, Elizabeth (Martin) Stevenson-Collins, Madonna (Keith Bosley) Mueller, Paul (Michelle) Steffes, Kathleen (Dennis) Mogenssen, Germaine "Geri" (Joseph Neil) Paul, Phyllis "Phyl" Steffes, Allen (Elaine) Steffes and Carlotta (Terry) Dietrich and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Greg; and brother, Richard.



Celebrating the life of  
**Robert “Bob” Steffes**



**FUNERAL MASS**

Holy Cross Catholic Church

West Fargo, North Dakota

Friday, December 1, 2023 - 2 p.m.

**Officiant**

Fr. Phil Ackerman

**Readers**

Max Steffes & Carter Steffes

**Music**

Margaret Keller, *soloist*

Bianca McCullum, *pianist*

**Hymns:**

“Soon And Very Soon”

“How Great Thou Art”

“Table of Plenty”

“I’ll Fly Away”

**Interment**

Arthur Cemetery

Arthur, ND

At a later date



*The family wishes to express their appreciation for your kindness and support during this difficult time. Please join them for fellowship immediately following the service.*

*To those I loved and those who loved me.  
When I am gone release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me in tears  
Be happy we had so many years.  
I gave to you my love,  
You can only guess how much you  
gave to me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love each have shown,  
But now it's time I traveled on alone.  
So grieve for awhile for me,  
If grieve you must, then let your grief be  
comforted by trust.  
It's only for awhile that we must part.  
So bless the memories within your heart.  
I Won't be far away, for life goes on.  
So if you need me call and I will come.  
Though you can't see or touch me,  
I'll be near and if you listen with your heart  
You'll hear all my love around you so soft and clear.  
And then when you must come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and a “Welcome home.”*