

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF...

Reuben George Elshaug passed into the arms of the Lord Jesus on, Sunday, January 7, 2018, at age 87, at the Ashley Medical Center, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He will be remembered for his contagious smile, love of telling jokes, and devotion to helping others. Known to his family as Red, or Ruby, he was an honest, hard-working, kind man who selflessly served his community, church and family. Reuben's family gives him a standing ovation for a job well done! He was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on November 2, 1930, to Oscar and Ragna Elshaug. He had six brothers, Edwin, Carroll, Oscar Jr., Charles, Steven (who died as an infant), and Baby boy, who died at birth. He also had four sisters, Lillian, Mavis, Maryanne, and Ester, who died as an infant. Reuben grew up in the farming community of Underwood, Minnesota, and attended a small country school there. His school teacher recognized Reuben's leadership skills at any early age, so she had him assist her with teaching reading and mathematics to the younger students. This was a spark for Reuben, who spent the rest of his life helping others.

As a youth, he sold the newspaper for pennies a paper, although sometimes he got paid a dime because of his red hair. Whether milking cows, cutting hay, or fixing old farm equipment, he worked long hours tirelessly in the company of his two best friends, his older brother Carroll, and his father, Oscar. The three were always together, and Reuben said he and Oscar felt a great void when his brother, Carroll, was drafted into the army in 1948. When he turned nineteen, Reuben also joined the army and served overseas from April 30, 1952, to April 10, 1954. Throughout his life he captivated people with war stories and tales of his life growing up on the farm.

After he was discharged from the army, Reuben met the love of his life, Rosella Wilkie, while he was working in Cavalier, North Dakota. They were married on November 18, 1956. Over the years, they had seven children, Lucy Elshaug, Bonny (Wayne) Varnson, Ronald Elshaug, Angela Reuben, Susan Schlenvogt, Catherine (Rocky) Saylor, and Collette Elshaug. In the summers, he loved taking his children camping in the Black Hills, fishing at Lake Oahe, or touring a national park or monument. He also loved watching westerns, reading, watching the futures markets or hanging out with his brothers and their families in Fergus Falls.

Reuben loved to laugh and tell jokes. Rarely was he seen without a smile on his face. He worked for many years in the grain business, and whenever anyone walked into his office, he was ready with a joke and a friendly greeting. After he retired from the Grain Elevator Business, he opened R & R Farm Supply in Ashley, North Dakota, where he ran a feed store for over twenty years. He loved opening his bay door every day, ready to help anyone who needed something.

A devoted servant of God, Reuben served as an altar boy, liturgist, or any other roll asked of him, including maintenance. When his children were young, it was common on a Saturday to find him mowing and watering the church lawn while his children dusted the pews and swept the floor. He had a great voice, and never missed singing in the congregation. As an example of God's love for all, Reuben championed his church's reception of Vietnam refugees by welcoming them into his home, finding them places to live, jobs, vehicles and missing family members. His compassionate, Christ-like nature was evident through his early support of cultural acceptance and diversity. The things he did for others served as an example to his children and others around him of open-armed unselfish love.

Now that Reuben is in heaven, he has the chance to meet his siblings, Ester, Steven, and Baby Boy, all of whom died as infants. He is survived by his wife, Rosella, his sister, Maryanne, and his seven children. He was much loved by his grandchildren Jarrid Elshaug, Anthony (Maegin) Elshaug, Justin (Charlene) Varnson, Kyle Varnson, Shelby (Keaton) Hanevold, Jessica Chipera, Dylan (Skyla) Chipera, Tiffany (Bill) Solometo, Tyler (Katie) Schlenvogt, Jackie (Ben) Schlepp, Raquel Saylor (Justin Gross), and Will Saylor; also his great-grandchildren Walker Solometo, Marek Varnson, Emmitt Schlepp, and Carmin Elshaug. He was a beloved uncle to many nephews and nieces.



"FOR ALL THOSE WHO EXALT THEMSELVES WILL BE HUMBLLED, AND THOSE WHO HUMBLE THEMSELVES WILL BE EXALTED." LUKE 14:11



*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."*

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
REUBEN ELSHAUG



MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
West Fargo, North Dakota
Saturday, January 13, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDER

The Rev. Gary Luiten

EULOGY

Sue Schlenvogt Collette Elshaug

MUSIC

Brad Schmidt, *cantor* Magda Fitterer, *pianist*

PALLBEARERS *Grandchildren*

ACTIVE

Jarrid Elshaug Anthony Elshaug Justin Varnson
Kyle Varnson Tiffany Solometo Tyler Schlenvogt
Will Sayler Dylan Chipera

HONORARY

Jessica Chipera Raquel Sayler
Jackie Schlepp Shelby Hanevold

MILITARY RITES

West Fargo VFW Post #7564
ND Military Funeral Honors Team - Army

INTERMENT

Holy Cross - North Fargo, ND

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

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