

Vincent Gregory Rettig was born on the family farm near Alexander on May 25, 1922. He was the second of five children born to Nicholas and Loretto (Hastings) Rettig.

Vince was baptized and confirmed at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Alexander. He was an excellent student and completed his first 8 years of school in just 5 years. He then went to work and helped support his family during the depression. He served as a member of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) where he willingly contributed all of his earnings to his parents to help support their family during the depression. He was later able to return to high school and graduated from Alexander High School in 1944.

Vince married Agnes Pesek on April 3, 1945, in Alexander. They made their home across the road from the original Rettig family homestead for 60 years until moving to an assisted-living facility in Williston. The Kensington soon became "home" to Vince and Agnes where many friendships were formed, games of whist were played and days of music enjoyed.

One of Vince's biggest accomplishments was being selected the Outstanding Young Farmer of North Dakota in 1958. Accompanied by John & Leone Schmitz, the expense paid trip to Indianapolis, IN was one of the highlights of his life. Vince was a dairy farmer for many years before going to work at Sitting Bull Auction in 1965. He had a love for animals, making sure they were always fed and cared for properly. After 31 years, Vince retired and pursued a lifelong passion for gardening. He soon became known as "The Pumpkin Man" and hundreds of pumpkins were harvested each year for several seasons always vying to raise a bigger one than the year before. Every spring a special effort was made to present Agnes with the first bouquet of crocus flowers that could be found.

Vince was a member of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, Church Council, 50 Years in the Saddle Club, McKenzie County Fair Board, Alexander Lions, Williston Jaycee's, Alexander Firemen, and served many terms on the Alexander School Board. He was very proud of the Lewis and Clark Museum to which he was a board member and volunteered numerous hours of his time to ensure the museum was ready for every season's tourists. Several summers were spent traveling to various horseshoe tournaments in North Dakota for which his accomplishments are shown by his many trophies.

Vince saw the best in everyone and strangers quickly became friends. His best days were those when he was surrounded by friends and family. As a farmer turned gardener he took pride harvesting vegetables from his garden and sharing them far and wide. His perfect end to a day was enjoying a cup of hot chocolate with Agnes. Together they would reflect on nights in their younger days when an evening out meant Indian Hill Hall, dancing and playing cards. In his youth Vince was a member of a dance band that often performed for these events. In later years many hours were spent reading and listening to old time music.

Surviving Vince are six children, Jim (Linda) Big Sandy, MT; Mary, Missoula, MT; Bob, Alexander; Ed (Mary) Alexander; Kim (Greg DeLorme) Williston; and Pam, Bismarck, his sister Mary Miller of Dickinson and sisters-in-law Caroline Rettig, Dickinson and Eva Rettig, Taylor, ND and numerous nieces and nephews.

"Grandpa Vince" will also be missed by twelve grandchildren; Jim's children, Shawn (Tiffany) and Shannon (Dean) Rhyneer; Bob's children, Kayla and Heidi; Ed's children, Ellie (Garry) Papineau, Melissa (Monte) Viall, Travis (Missy) and Amanda and fiancée (Jared Overby); Kim's children, Jason (Sarah), Alecia, Scott, and Michael.

Grandpa Vince was also blessed with twelve great grandchildren, Caden and Tylynn Rettig; Tevin, Devin, and Tahya Papineau; Brady, Britne, and Brock Viall; Matthew and Nathan Rettig; Peyton Overby; Kallon DeLorme; and one great-great grandchild, Ryleigh (Nathan Rettig).

Vince was an honest and hard working man who was loved by many and will be missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Agnes on April 5, 2009 just 2 days after their 64th wedding anniversary, parents (Nick & Loretto Rettig), his three brothers (Ambrose, Jerry & Tom) and an infant sister.

# In Loving Memory Vince Rettig



May 25, 1922 ~ May 8, 2009

## **Fathers Never Die**

You have never lost your Father  
Though you've said the last good-byes  
Though there's heartbreak in the parting  
No one's Father really dies.  
If you love to hear the old songs  
For the memories they bring  
It's because you had a Father  
Who had taught your heart to sing.  
If you stop to help a neighbor  
Search your heart and you will find  
It's because you had a Father  
Who taught you to be kind.  
If you go to church when weary  
Seeking God to guide your way  
It's because you had a Father  
Who had taught you how to pray.  
No, you've never lost your Father  
Though you've said your last good-byes  
Through your thoughts and deeds he's living  
No one's Father really dies.

## ***In Memory Of Vincent G. Rettig***

### ***Date and Place of Birth***

*May 25, 1922*

*Rural Alexander, North Dakota*

### ***Date and Place of Passing***

*May 8, 2009*

*Williston, North Dakota*

### ***Funeral Service***

*11:00 AM, Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

*Saint Josephs Catholic Church*

*Williston, North Dakota*

### ***Clergy***

*Father Dennis Schafer*

### ***Musicians***

*Ellie Papineau ~ Vocalist*

*Robyn Heck ~ Accompanist*

### ***Casketbearers***

*Travis Rettig*

*Michael DeLorme*

*Shawn Rettig*

*Scott DeLorme*

*Monte Viall*

*Jason DeLorme*

### ***Honorary Casketbearers***

*All of Grandpa Vince's Grandchildren*

### ***Interment***

*Alexander Cemetery*

*You may share your remembrances and condolences  
with the family at the Fulkerson Funeral Home website  
[www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com)*