









Harlan David Rolla Sr., was born on August 22, 1932 on the family farm in McKenzie County, the son of Conrad and Evangeline (Eheler) Rolla. Growing up, he spent most of his time working on the family farm and ranch. He took over the farm and ranch from his father, Conrad Rolla.

He met Carol Juanita Ericson and they married two years later in 1962. They lived on the family farm and ranch the entire time they were married. They raised four children and taught them to love the Lord Jesus. Harlan was a man of God and it showed in his demeanor and in the way that he treated others. Early in their marriage, Harlan worked for neighbor, John Anderson. Harlan drove school bus for 37 years for the McKenzie County School District, which worked out perfectly in making certain that his four children had a way to get to school. He enjoyed driving the bus and interacting with the children.

Harlan was a man of few words, so when he spoke
—you listened! He waved to everyone when he drove
and spoke to you when he met you on the street. He
loved spending time with his family and his eight
grandchildren. He was a wise man and enjoyed
teaching his children and grandchildren of his love of
the land. He was a deacon in the church for many
years and had a true love for the Lord. He was most
recently attending New Town Baptist Fellowship.

Harlan was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Carol, his twin infant sons, James and Joseph, his three brothers and two sisters.

He is survived by his children, David (Tammy) Rolla of Williston, ND, Angie (Scott) Abbey of Del Valle, TX, Hope (Brian) Kovaloff of Mandan, ND and Conrad (Cherri) Rolla of New Town, ND; grandchildren, Aaron and Austin Rolla, Erin and Ian Abbey, Riley and Hunter Kovaloff and Ashlynn and Clara Rolla; and his special friend, Shirley Bombach.

Harlan will be missed by all that knew him. He passed away on Saturday, August 4, 2018 in St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck from cancer.

## CLOSE THE GATE (FOR DAD)

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.

By Nancy Kraayenhof