

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELLIS LAVERN ROSS

BORN TO CLAUDE & VERA ROSS
December 6, 1929 ~ Alexandria, South Dakota

RETURNED TO HIS HEAVENLY FATHER
July 24, 2022 ~ Minot, North Dakota

VISITATION

Friday, July 29, 2022 ~ 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home Chapel
Watford City, North Dakota

FAMILY SERVICE

Friday, July 29, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Living Faith Church
Watford City, North Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, July 30, 2022 at 11:00 AM
Living Faith Church
Watford City, North Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Roger Olson

MUSICIAN

Carol Olson

PALLBEARERS

Carlee Jo Villarreal Kade Ross Guy Ross
Caleb Rust Naomi Rust
Sterling Ross Shelby Sevilla

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Manny Sevilla, Cesar Villarreal
Nieces & Nephews

MILITARY HONORS

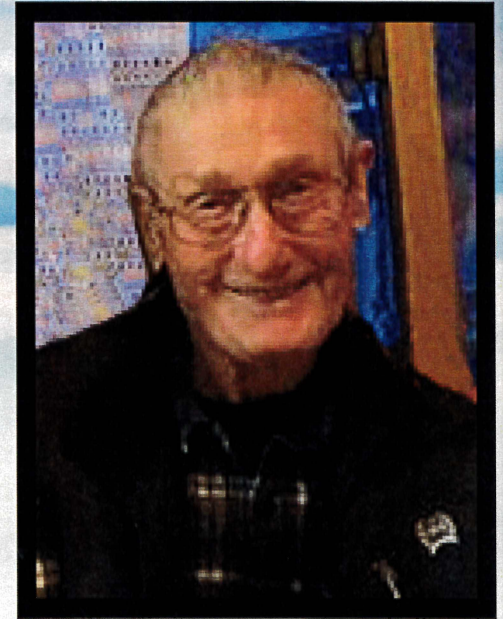
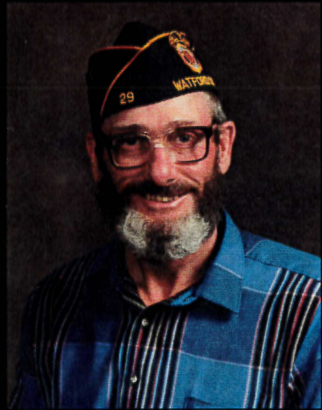
U.S. Marine Honor Guard
McKenzie County American Legion

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Schafer Cemetery ~ Watford City, North Dakota

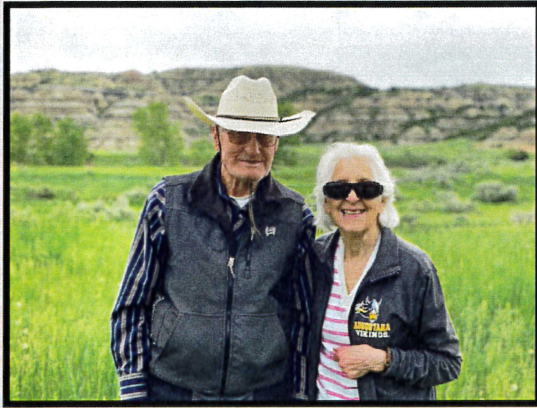
ARRANGEMENTS BY

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Watford City, ND



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELLIS LAVERN ROSS

DECEMBER 6, 1929 - JULY 24, 2022



A Letter Written to Grandpa
By: Carlee Jo - Age 11 in 2004

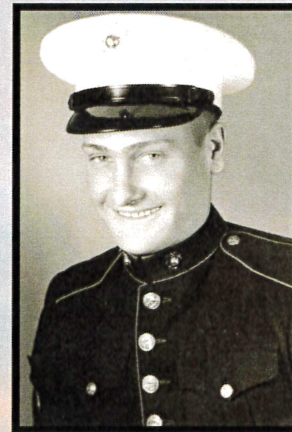
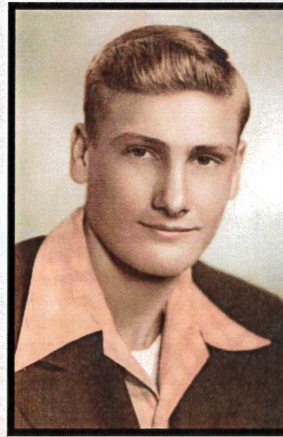
I think the world needs cowboys and cowgirls because I'm one, and lovin' it. If there were none, who would grow the crops? Who would do the really hard jobs? Who would tame the wild horses?

If there were no old country or farms, where would all the livestock live? If we had no livestock, how would we get our meat? What if there were no old back country roads; if there was no beautiful landscape? Where are all the farmers gonna grow their crops, and raise their livestock, and tame wild horses? Where are cowboys and cowgirls gonna work, ride their horses, and raise their kids the way their parents raised them? Where would we have the rodeos that everyone enjoys? Could you answer any of these questions, could anyone answer these questions?

The cowboys and cowgirls and all the farmers are the strongest and the hardest workers. I'm a true cowgirl, and if you'd ask me who my hero is; I'd have to say my grandpa, because there's not many 74-year-old men who are still riding and training horses. He is the best of the best, he taught me ride and handle livestock. He taught me when you fall off or get hurt, take a couple of deep breathes; and then get back up there and try it again.

He helps me with just about anything I need help with, even when I don't want it. But what he doesn't know is that, if I act like I don't care I DO listen!! I love him and look up to him more than I probably show it!

Love your Little Cowgirl, Carlee.



Ellis Lavern Ross, 92 of Watford City passed away surrounded by his loving family. He was born on December 6, 1929, to Claude and Vera Ross on a farm near Alexandria, SD, the first of their five children. In 1942, his parents bought a farm in Sanborn County, where they raised hogs, cattle, horses, and poultry. In Dad's words, he was first a "chore boy, later a farm hand." He graduated from 8th grade country school in 1943, and from Artesian High School in 1947.

After high school, Vern "drifted a bit" working as a hired hand both on the family farm and for other area farmers. He also drove trucks, hauling livestock and poultry from Mitchell to processing plants in Iowa and Nebraska.

In 1951, he was drafted into the US Marine Corps. He went through boot camp in San Diego, served at Camp Pendleton, CA in the 3rd Tank Battalion, and completed his service in November 1953 at Headquarters of the 9th MCR&RD in Chicago, IL. He entered South Dakota State University in January 1954 on the GI Bill. He graduated in December 1959 and worked as a farm manager until hiring on with Farmers Home Administration in November 1961.

He married JoAnne Essink on December 1, 1957. As Kenneth was born in January 1959, Ellis and JoAnne knew the struggle of supporting a family while going to college. Laura and Doug were born in South Dakota, so it was a family of five that Ellis & JoAnne packed up and moved for a two-month training period in Dickinson. In January 1962, the FHA assigned him to Linton, where Tom was born, completing their family.

In 1965, the family moved to Towner, relocating to New Town in 1974. In 1980, Ellis and JoAnne moved to Watford City and built their current home. Ellis retired from the FHA in November 1989.

After retirement, he had more time to devote to "being a cowboy": riding, raising and training horses. Ellis helped area ranchers with calving and round ups. A highlight was assisting with buffalo round ups at the North Unit. After finding pleasure in helping his grandkids with their 4-H steers, he began finishing a couple of calves each year for his family's use.

Throughout his life, Ellis dedicated himself to faith, family, community and fun! Upon arriving in a new location, Ellis would establish a church home, serving in whatever capacity was needed. He also got involved in the local community, volunteering as a Webelo and Boy Scout Leader. He was a 69-year member of the American Legion, championing the Oratorical Contest in both Towner and Watford City. As a member of the Carl Rogen Post 29, he proudly served on the Drill Team. He was also a member of the Long X Wagon Trail.

He taught us all to appreciate God's creation by taking us hiking, canoeing, tobogganing, fishing, hunting, camping and horseback riding. Our family playgrounds were the Mouse River and the J. Clark Saylor Wildlife Refuge in Towner, Lake Sakakawea and the North Unit of the TRNP. He introduced us to basketball, tennis, cross country and downhill skiing. He loved to play games—ping pong, Upwords, and work crossword puzzles.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 64 ½ years, JoAnne; sons, Ken of Arnegard; Doug (Marilyn) of Watford City; Tom (Betty) of Bismarck; and daughter, Laura (Jeff) Rust of Bismarck; 7 grandchildren: Carlee (Cesar) Villarreal of Fairview; Kade Ross of Sidney; Guy Ross of Watford City; Caleb Rust of Missoula; Naomi Rust of Xenia, OH; Sterling Ross of Denver; Shelby (Manny) Sevilla of Bismarck; and two great-granddaughters, Mia and Emma Villarreal. He is also survived by a brother, Glenn, of Rapid City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Dorothy Learn, brothers, Clyde & Keith. Blessed be the memory of Ellis Lavern Ross.