



Gerald Copes

Born to Ben and Mattie Copes

May 28, 1928 ~ Warden, Louisiana

Called Home to His Heavenly Father

August 27, 2023 ~ Fargo, North Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Zion Free Lutheran Church

Tioga, North Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Chris Kumpula

Reader

Micah Berge (Grandson)

Music

"How Great Thou Art" & "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Karol Jean Wolla ~ Organist

Meriel Lora ~ Pianist

Special Music

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Christina Winslow (Granddaughter) ~ Soloist

"Wonderful Merciful Savior"

Ben Eder & Carrie Coker (Grandchildren) ~ Duet

Scripture

Reading from Psalms

Kermit Berge ~ Scripture Reader

Psalms 103: 8-18 & 1 John 5: 11-13

Brian Rice ~ Scripture Reader

Pallbearers

Micah Berge

Joshua Berge

Andrew Berge

Benjamin Eder

Jeff Winslow

Chris Papillon

Chris Coker

Meriel Lora

Military Honors

American Legion Post #139

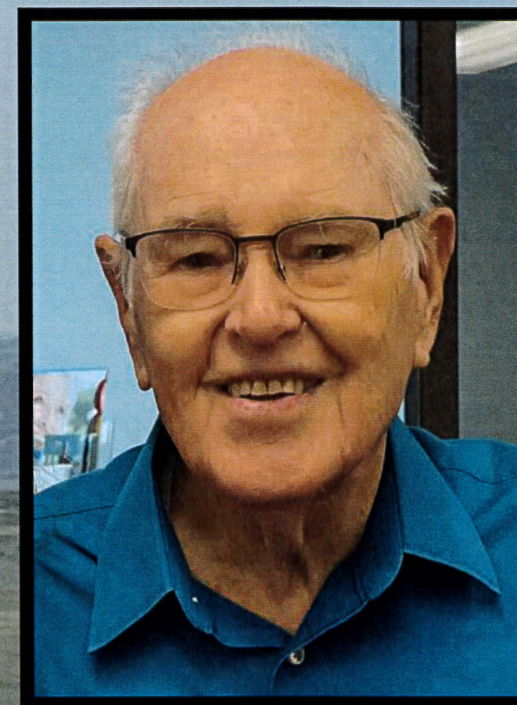
US Navy Honor Guard

Final Resting Place

Zion Lutheran Cemetery ~ Tioga, North Dakota

Arrangements By

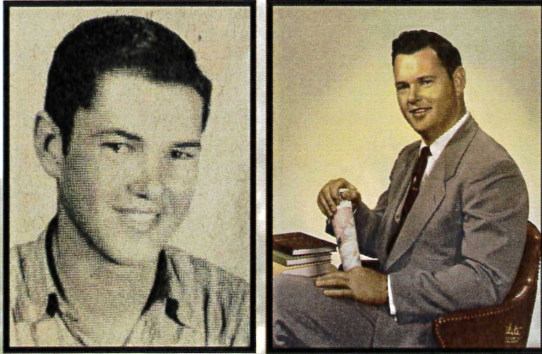
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Tioga, North Dakota



In Loving Memory Of

Benjamin Gerald Copes

May 28, 1928 - August 27, 2023



Benjamin Gerald Copes, 95, of Tioga, ND, passed away peacefully at the Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND on Sunday morning August 27, 2023. Gerald was blessed with good health and a sharp mind, able to remember details of past events to the amazement of those who knew him. He remained in his own home, living independently until the time of his passing.

Gerald was born on May 28, 1928, in Warden, Louisiana, to Ben and Mattie Copes. He graduated from Delhi High School in 1946. He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy on November 22, 1946, for 5 years. He was honorably discharged on November 15, 1951. He then began working for Kelley Coppedge, INC in Delhi, Louisiana. Five months later he was transferred to the Tioga, ND, office arriving in April 1952 after the discovery of oil in the area. He quickly rose to become the general manager in the Tioga District where he remained until his retirement in April of 1987.

Gerald met the love of his life, Evelyn Peterson, an elementary teacher at a Tioga basketball game in 1957. They were married in Williston on July 19, 1959. They were blessed to have 62 years of a close and loving marriage until Evelyn's passing on September 3, 2021. They had two daughters, Carolyn and Nancy, 16 months apart. The four of them enjoyed annual summer vacations driving to Gerald's home in Louisiana to visit his family.

Gerald loved and honored his parents by purchasing farm equipment for their cotton farm and building a new brick home for them to enjoy. Gerald and Evelyn spent several months each year after their retirement in that same home.

Gerald had many interests which included participating in and watching a variety of sports. In 1973 he won the state singles bowling championship. He pulled chains at the Tioga football games as part of the "Chain Gang" for 40 years until he was 85 years old. He was on the Tioga Medical Center Board for 12 years. He was a member of the Tioga Country Club. He was president of Tioga Senior Citizens and helped deliver meals. Gerald was an active member of Zion Free Lutheran Church where he served as a trustee for several years and assisted with many construction projects.

Gerald is survived by his daughters: Carolyn (Kermit) Berge of Larimore, ND, and Nancy (Brian) Rice of White Earth, ND. Nine grandchildren: Christina (Jeff) Winslow, Williston, ND; Micah (Julia) Berge, Reynolds, ND; Joshua (Rachel) Berge, Hutchinson, MN; Andrew (Brenna) Berge, Kindred, ND; Katie (Chris) Papillon, Larimore, ND; Carrie (Chris) Coker, San Antonio, TX; Ben Eder, Minot, ND; Gracia Eder, Williston, ND; and Greta (Meriel) Lora, Williston, ND. Three step grandchildren: Tiffanie (Dave) Finstrom, White Earth, ND; Jeremie (Amber) Rice, Minot, ND; Bethanie (Daniel) Letch, White Earth, ND. 12 great-grandchildren with another one on the way and 10 step-great-grandchildren. Sisters-in-law: Ilene Orluck, Williston, ND; Marilyn Grosshans, Las Vegas, NV; De-Ette Copes, Delhi, LA; plus many nieces and nephews.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Evelyn Copes, his sister Lorraine Nappier, his brother Lonnie Copes, several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and one step-grandson, Elijah Finstrom.

All of Gerald's family and friends knew him as a gentle, kind and caring man, who loved and honored God. He lived a full life until he took his last breath. He will be missed by all who knew him. Blessed be his memory.



*He never looked for praise.
He was never one to boast
He just went on quietly working
For the ones he loved the most.
His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the time his worries
Went unspoken too.
He was there.... a firm foundation
Through all our storms of life
A sturdy hand to hold on to
In times of stress and strife.
A true friend we could turn to
When times were good or bad
One of our greatest blessings
The man that we called Dad.*

