



Close the Gate



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.



In Loving Memory Of Leroy Leland

Born to Johren (Gulbraa) and Ernest Leland
August 23, 1934 ~ Sidney, Montana

Passed Away Peacefully
January 17, 2024 ~ Sidney, Montana

Funeral Services

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Squaw Gap Hall ~ McKenzie County, North Dakota
Luncheon to Follow Services at the Hall

Officiating

Pastor Tim Tharp

Military Honors

Provided by the National Guard Funeral Honors Team
and the VFW Carl E. Rogen Post 29

Casketbearers

Ty Skarda Brett Skarda Kellen Longie
Kyle Jellesed Luke Taylor Sam Irwin
Rory Irwin Nick Cross James Oliver

Ushers

Tim Leland Mike Leland Kevin Leland Garret Leland
Ernie Leland David Crighton Ron Crighton

Music

Sharon Whited

Eulogy

Kelly Indergard

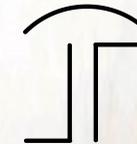
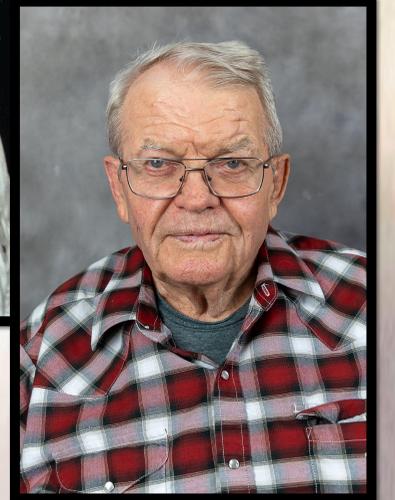
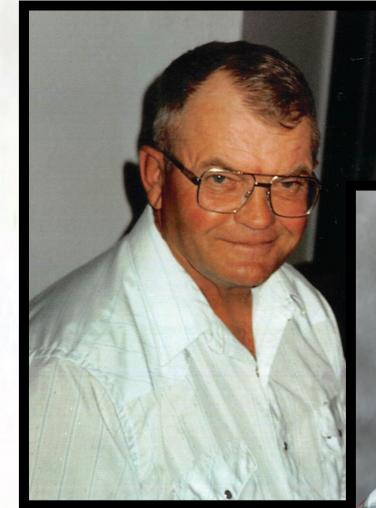
Arrangements By

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Sidney, Montana



30 pack of Budweiser - \$24.95. Afternoon with brothers - PRICELESS.

I N L O V I N G
Memory



Leroy Ernest Leland

August 23, 1934 - January 17, 2024





Leroy Ernest Leland was born in Sidney, Montana on August 23, 1934, to Ernest and Johren (Gulbraa) Leland. He was raised in the rural area near Squaw Gap, North Dakota. Here he attended a one room country schoolhouse, first through eighth grade. He attended high school in Sidney, Montana where he roomed and boarded during the

school week in town. He graduated high school in 1952. While in high school he was involved in sports and was asked to play football by college recruiters.



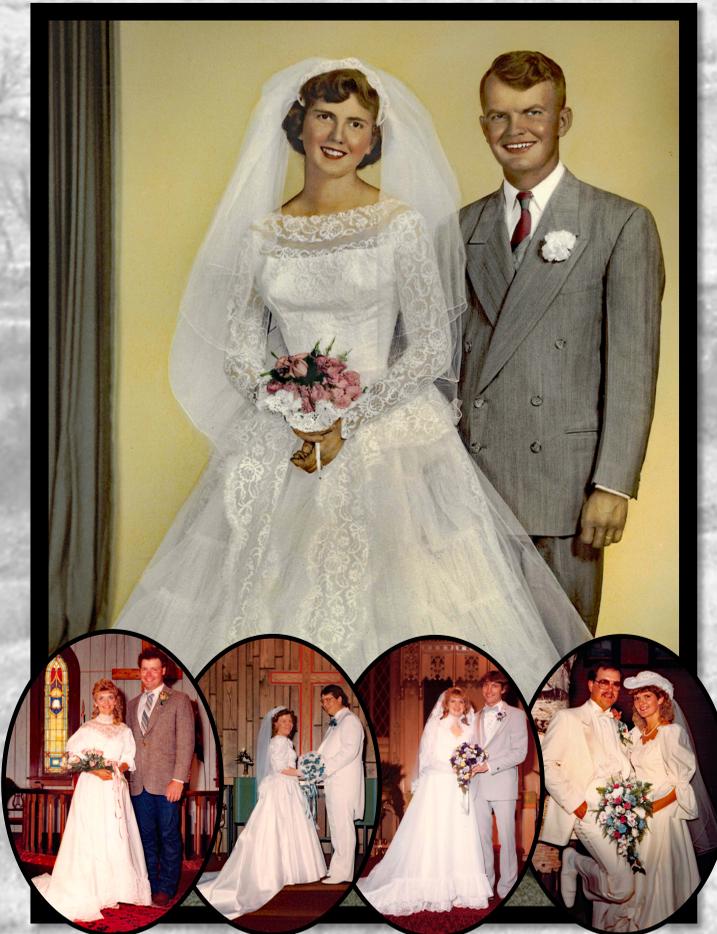
Leroy chose to stay and work on the family ranch on Bennie Peer Creek in Squaw Gap, until enlisting in the army on June 1, 1954. He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He is the only soldier in McKenzie County, North Dakota who was involved with the atomic bomb testing, at the Nevada proving

grounds. Leroy was honorably discharged on March 2, 1956, and returned to work on the family ranch. During this time, he met a young schoolteacher named Virginia Kuykendall who taught at Leland School and boarded at his parents' home. Leroy and Virginia were married in Cartwright, North Dakota on June 6, 1958.

Leroy and Virginia were life partners. Virginia was the love of his life. They ranched together on Bennie Peer

Creek where they raised three daughters and a son. Leroy loved and took special care of his family and livestock. He was a good cowman. No matter the season or weather conditions he always worked long, hard hours to ensure the cattle had the best care he could give them. He spent hours making sure the gates to the dikes on the hay fields were operational to ensure a hay crop for the year. Leroy was an equal opportunity employer, who enlisted the help of his wife, daughters, and son on the ranch wherever needed.

Leroy was a kind, quiet man with a great sense of humor that his family was fortunate to experience on a daily basis. He loved his family, working the ranch,



and the Squaw Gap community. He especially enjoyed visiting and having a drink with neighbors and friends in the bunkhouse at the ranch.

Leroy peacefully passed away on January 17, 2024, at the Sidney Health Center in Sidney, MT with family by his side.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his children Kathy (Gary) Skarda of Keene, ND, Susie (John) Irwin of Alexander, ND, Nancy (Leif) Jellesed of Charlson, ND, and Ken (Karen) Leland of Sidney, MT; his grandchildren Courtney (Luke) Taylor of Watford City, ND, Kyle Jellesed of Minot, ND, Ty (Sarah) Skarda of Keene, ND, Katie (Kellen) Longie of Keene, ND, Brett Skarda of Bismarck, ND, Myre (Nick) Cross of Glendive, MT, Sam (Robbyn) Irwin of Alexander, ND, Marni (James) Oliver of Savage, MT, and Rory (Mandy) Irwin of Edgemont, SD; six great-grandchildren with two more on the way; brothers Myron (Ardehl) Leland of Squaw Gap, ND, Gary (Georgia) Leland of Havre, MT, and Joe Leland of Sidney, MT; sister-in-law Jeanie Leland of Sidney, MT; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Leroy is preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Johren Leland; sister and brother-in-law Marjorie and Dave Crighton; brother Raymond "Ricky" Leland, father- and mother-in-law Jim and Doris Kuykendall; and brother-in-law Nels Boe.

