

A DRILLERS PRAYER

A conversation I had with a friend the other day.
We got to talking church and he said them old
drillers ~ they don't pray... Now I beg to differ, I
know for a fact. I was out at the rig and caught one
in the act... I knelt with him as he began to pray,
these are the words I heard him say.

"Dear Heavenly Father I pray to you though I wear
no robe or sash. I'm just real proud to be what
some call oilfield trash... Now I know it's no big
gig to spend my life on a rotary rig, but Father I
thank you that I've been able to put my time on
both sides of the old rotary table... Yes I've worked
lead tongs and threw chain too. I've even worked
derricks with some help from you.. Father please
bless this old rig that I run and be my hands on the
break when the work has begun... I pray this hole I
drill will be straight and true and every barrel of oil
from it will glorify you... Now Father I dream of
your rig so divine it had a derrick of crystal and
silver drilling line. Your rig had lights so bright
and it stood out so bold. The crown was lined with
diamonds and the Kelly was made of gold. Those
roughnecks, Lord what a sight! They had hardhats
of gold and their carhartts were all white...
Now Father when my Kelly is down and it's time
for me to expire, to be on your rig would be my
greatest desire".

In Loving Memory Of Michael Fretheim

Born to Willard & Louisa Fretheim
August 1, 1950 ~ Stanley, North Dakota

Returned to His Heavenly Father
May 2, 2025 ~ Tioga, North Dakota

Funeral Services
Monday, May 12, 2025
Springan Stevenson Funeral Home
Stanley, North Dakota

Officiating
Milo Mell

Pallbearers
Ronnie Gunderson C.J. Wells Byron Fretheim
James Garcia Ronnie Addicott T.J. Moore
Kelly Wittmayer Ricky Fretheim

Honorary Pallbearers
All of Michael's Family & Friends

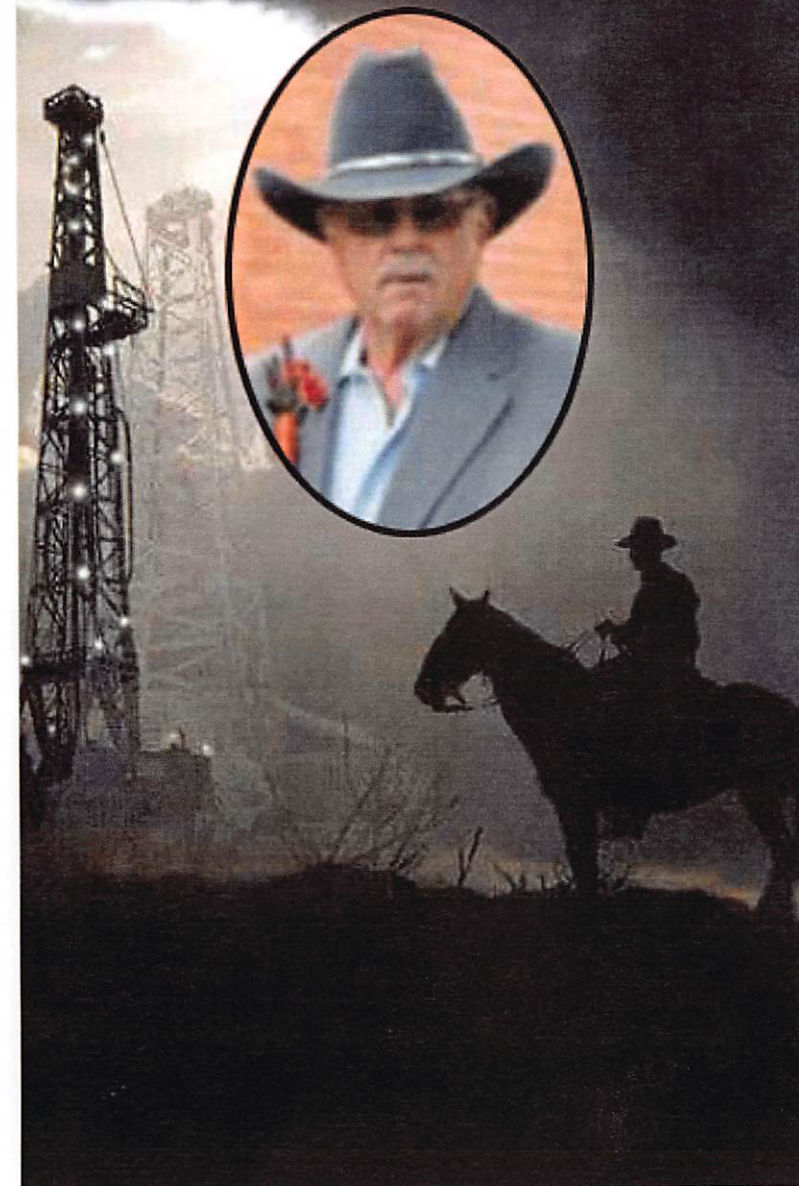
Special Music
"Go Rest High On That Mountain" ~ Vince Gill
"When I Get Where I'm Going" ~ Brad Paisley
"These Damn Rigs" ~ Bryan Martin
"I'm Not OK" ~ Jelly Roll
"Strawberry Roan" ~ Barney Robbins

Arrangements By
Springan Stevenson Funeral Home
Stanley, North Dakota

Remembering THE LIFE OF

Michael Fretheim

August 1, 1950 - May 2, 2025





Michael Leroy Fretheim "Mike", was born on August 1, 1950 to Willard and Louisa Fretheim. Mike was born at the home of Mrs. Monson, a midwife in Stanley, North Dakota. He was the seventh of eight Fretheim children. Mike attended Pearl Valley Country School until the fourth grade.

We have been told on many occasions Mike had to walk uphill 10 miles both to school and home apparently, he took a different way home. He moved on to the Stanley School until his sophomore year.

He began his career at the age of 15 as a door to door vacuum cleaner salesman for six months out in Spokane, Washington. He entered the oilfield at the age of 17. He worked for many different oil companies and held many different positions. If you were to sit down with some old rough necks, they would most likely have a story or two to tell about him. He retired from Duco, Inc. in 2011 at the age of 61.

In his early years, Mike at the young age of 13, met the love of his life, Verna Marmon. They were married on August 24, 1968. Together they created four children, Pam, Brian, Brandon, and Byron. They made their home where ever the oil field transferred them, from Western North Dakota to Eastern Montana, and even Rock Springs, Wyoming. They eventually divorced in 1992.

Moving to Vernal, Utah from Rock Springs, Wyoming Mike met Linda Mae Staley. They were married November of 1992. Their marriage lasted for 32 years until Linda passed away in 2022. He was blessed with a step-son, James, from this marriage.



Mike and Verna remained friends and co-parented throughout their years apart, and rekindled their relationship after Mike moved back to North Dakota. They enjoyed building their new life together at White Earth Bay until his last day.

When Mike was not working you could find him hunting or fishing with a beer in one hand and a smoke in the other. Mike had some of the most cherished moments in his life while hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren. He became the camp chef where he mastered dutch oven cooking. He always had a funny story or memory to share while visiting with friends and family. Later in life, he found the joy of gardening and wine making.



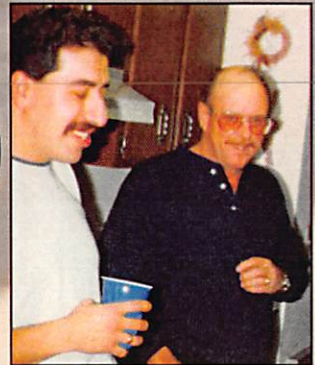
Mike loved his family intensely. Becoming a grandfather and great grandfather were highlights of his life. He would talk for hours about dinosaurs with them. He taught them to be the best rock pickers at White Earth Bay. He also loved to talk them out of their Halloween candy. Mike never forgot a birthday or holiday when it came to his family.

It cannot be said that Mike Fretheim didn't live a very full life. He wasn't always easy to get along with, but you had to respect the fact that he said it the way it was. He was the hardest working S.O.B. that you'd ever know. Mike will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.



Mike is survived by the love of his life, Verna; his children, Pam (Mike), Brian (Sondra) both of Williston, ND, Brandon (Heather) of Stanley, ND, and Byron of Williston, ND; step-son, James Garcia of Vernal, Ut; 11 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren and 1 on the way; 2 great great grandchildren and 1 on the way; brother, Curt (Daphne) of Vernal, UT; sister in law, Bev of Ross, ND; numerous nieces and nephews; and some cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willard and Louisa; siblings, Virgil, Allen, Duane, Louise, Lois, and Marlys; wife, Linda; granddaughter, Olivia Fretheim; grandson, Clay Kyllonen; and beloved nieces and nephews.



*Forget
ME NOT*