

Robert "Bob" Jon Backman, age 65, of New Rockford, ND passed away Sunday, October 8, 2023, at CHI St Alexius Health, Carrington, ND after a courageous 7-year battle with cancer.

Bob was born February 24, 1958, at the City Hospital in New Rockford, the son of Don and Gerda Backman. He attended school at New Rockford Central School and throughout his high school years was involved with 4-H, FFA, band, and Rocket Football where he earned the nickname "Stacks" because getting through him was like getting through a haystack, impossible! He graduated from NRHS in 1976, then attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston in 1979. After graduation, Bob returned to New Rockford and took over the family dairy farm after his dad fell ill. Bob married Debbie Reis in September of 1981 and together they had two children, Amanda and Neil. They raised their family and operated the dairy farm until 1997 when Bob started working at Dakota Growers Pasta Plant in Carrington. He worked there as a machine operator until his retirement in 2020.

Bob was a devoted father and grandfather and loved growing up and raising his family on the farm east of New Rockford. One of his favorite times was calving season. He took great joy in seeing the baby calves run in the pasture and then bringing them to the yard for bottle feeding. There also may have been a time or two when a sick baby calf ended up in the back of the pickup or even in the bathtub. He also loved watching Minnesota Twins baseball along with Bison and Vikings football. Bob took a yearly bus trip with the Farmers Union to watch a Vikings game at the Metrodome for many years. No matter if the Vikings won or lost, he enjoyed his short vacation from the farm. Bob took enjoyment in a yearly mini vacation to Lake Sakakawea where he would hire a fishing guide and take Amanda and Neil walleye fishing in the summer.

For many years Bob was an active member of the St. John's Catholic Church and more recently the First Congregational Church that he had grown up attending. Bob served as treasurer for the Nystrom Cemetery for many years, was a member of the New Rockford Eagles Club, and also served on the Tiffany township board.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Amanda (Lucas) Croegaert of Bismarck; son, Neil Backman of New Rockford; sister, Lorraine (Chuck) LeBlanc of Grand Forks; two grandsons, Trace and Toby Croegaert, and a niece and nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Gerda; his sister, Gail Klumph; and a brother-in-law, Alfred Klumph.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Bob Backman

FEBRUARY 24, 1958 – OCTOBER 8, 2023

A Farmer's Hands

Hands that are large and tough from years
of rugged outdoor work.

Hands with fingers sensitive to music, but too thick to
strike just one key on a piano, or a single string on a violin.

Hands that are versatile, simultaneously wielding an ax
and swiping a fistful of berries from a nearby bush.

Hands that clasp themselves habitually in prayer
giving thanks for food, for rain, for sun,
for late frosts, early springs, good yield,
for soil, for health, for a newborn calf.

Hands that are strong, squeezing out a pail full of milk in
just no time, pulling strands of barbed wire taut,
carrying mountains of hay and oceans of water
to hungry thirsty farm creatures.

Hands that are gentle, marveling out at the softness of a
furry kitten, rescuing a killdeer's nest from the path of
the plow, patting the shoulder of a disappointed child.

Hands that are inventive, twisting, pounding,
pinching until a machine is fixed, shaping an idea
into something useful.

Hands that are tired from over a half century of tilling,
planting, weeding, harvesting.

Hands that we love - a farmer's hands.

Celebrating The Life Of *Robert Jon Backman*

February 24, 1958 - New Rockford, ND

October 8, 2023 - Carrington, ND

VISITATION

Thursday, October 12, 2023

9:30AM-10:30AM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, October 12, 2023

10:30AM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Pastor Mindy Meier

MUSIC

Kerstin Allmaras ~ Violinist

Joann Leichtman ~ Organist

Katie Allmaras and Hallie Brown ~ Vocalist

Here I Am Lord ~ In The Sweet By And By ~ Just As I Am

PALLBEARERS

Dave Fleming ~ Kevin Schafer ~ Dennis Rimmereid

Bob Nihill ~ Jake Whitten ~ Jamie Allmaras

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Robert's Grandchildren ~ Trace & Toby Croegaert

BURIAL

Nystrom Cemetery, Sheyenne, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home - Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com