

Haakon “Buffa” Ekren, age 88, of Carrington, ND, formerly of Kensal, ND, died Saturday, August 17, 2024, at Golden Acres Manor, Carrington.

Haakon M. Ekren, Jr. was born on March 19, 1936, the son of Haakon and Maybelle (Nelson) Ekren. He grew up on the family farm south of Kensal, ND, and graduated from Kensal High School. On June 23, 1955, Buffa married Marlene K. Ferguson at Trinity Lutheran Church in Carrington, ND.

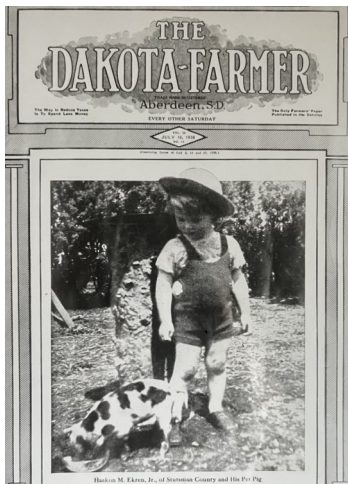
Buffa and Marlene farmed most of their lives, west of Kensal. In 2017, they retired from farming and moved to Carrington, ND.

Buffa enjoyed his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; he loved his family, farming, raising cattle, visiting with his friends, and collecting antiques. He always had a story to tell, and his quick wit got him out of a speeding ticket more than once! His entrepreneurial spirit began at a young age. Throughout his life, he sold golf carts and trailers, brokered many “deals”, and even invented the “Ranchman” trailers with his brother.

Buffa was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, a member of the school board, as well as a census taker for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Milton; sisters, Norma Lovell and Annie Fischer; and wife, Marlene.

He is survived by his 3 sons, Dennis (Becky) Ekren of Lakewood, CO, Dean (Brenda) Ekren of Kensal, ND, Kelly (Dana) Ekren of Kensal, ND; 3 daughters, Mamie Ekren of Fargo, ND, Joni (Bryon) Smith of Fargo, ND, and Cassie (Cory) Smith of Carrington, ND; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and several beloved nieces and nephews.



Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Haakon “Buffa” Ekren

MARCH 19, 1936 - AUGUST 17, 2024

So God Made A Farmer

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker."

So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours."

So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark.

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church. "Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'"

So God made a farmer.

Celebrating A Life Well Lived

Haakon Magnus Ekren, Jr.

March 19, 1936 – Kensal, ND

August 17, 2024 – Carrington, ND

VISITATION

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Evans Funeral Home, Carrington, ND

PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

7:00PM

Evans Funeral Home, Carrington, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

1:00PM

United Methodist Church, Kensal, ND

OFFICIATING

Pastor Jeanne Sortland

SPECIAL MUSIC

Roger, Daniel, & Ross Florhaug

Amazing Grace ~ Buffa's Farm

Hallelujah ~ Go Rest High On That Mountain

PALLBEARERS

Dylan Ekren ~ Mitch Ekren ~ Dustin Ekren ~ Andrew Ekren

Darren Ekren ~ Jordan Smith ~ Trent Ekren ~ Chad Truemer

BURIAL

Kensal Cemetery

Kensal, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND

www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com