



## Torrey Berge

June 29, 1922 - August 19, 2020

Torrey Berge was born on June 29, 1922 on a farm near Cooperstown, North Dakota to Albert and Betsy Berge. He was the second of five children. He grew up on the family farm in Sverdrup Township near the Sheyenne River, surrounded by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and his maternal grandparents. Torrey shared many great stories of growing up with his big, extended family.

Torrey began farming at a young age. As the oldest boy in the family, he dropped out of high school to help his father with the farming. During World War II, Torrey joined the army. He was stationed in Japan after Japan surrendered. He shared stories of living in Japan and having the job of driving around senior army officers. During his time in the army, Torrey was able to earn his GED. When returning to the States, Torrey took advantage of the GI Bill and graduated with a teaching degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN in 1956. He was always very proud of being a Cobber!

He taught for a year in Warwick, North Dakota. He then received an offer from an acquaintance who was living in Ketchikan, Alaska, to come and teach in Alaska in 1957 (before Alaska was a state!). Torrey accepted the offer and drove to Ketchikan. During his first year of teaching there, he met Janet Zoll who had arrived in Alaska via Ohio. They were married the summer of 1958 in Ohio. They began another teaching year the Fall of 1958, but as spring work began in 1959, Torrey's father became ill. Torrey left Ketchikan to go back to the family farm to help with the farm work. Janet joined him after the school year ended.

Torrey's father died in August of 1959. Torrey decided he would rather be a farmer than a teacher, so he and Janet settled near Hannaford, North Dakota. He farmed until 1992. After the death of his wife in 1993, Torrey moved to Valley City, North Dakota to be near his daughter, Gail (Miller).

Torrey was involved in activities and the support of his home church, Zion Lutheran Church, Cooperstown. He was still a member of the American Legion. After his retirement and his move to Valley City, he volunteered to help people in many ways, including driving people to doctor's appointments. Torrey enjoyed traveling, meeting people and spending time with family and friends. Torrey has spent the last five years at Bridgeview Assisted Living in Valley City. He very much enjoyed his time there, making new friends with both

residents and staff.

Torrey leaves to mourn and cherish his memory his three daughters, Louanna Myles (Mickey), Gail Miller (Jeffrey), and Betsy Kolden (Gary); 10 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his youngest sister Ellen Perkins (Fred); his sister-in-law, Jinny Ann (Richard); along with a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is predeceased by his wife, Janet; sister, Lue, and her husband, Melvin; brother, Robert, and his wife, Adeline; and brother, Ronald, and his wife, Ruth. He will be greatly missed.

Visitation will be 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Sunday, August 23, 2020 at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City, with a prayer service beginning at 7:00 pm.

The funeral service will be 11:00 am, Monday, August 24 at Saron Church, Cooperstown, ND with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Westley Cemetery, Cooperstown, ND.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Westley Cemetery**

Cooperstown, ND,

**AUG 23 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM**

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**23**

Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel  
251 Central Ave. S., Valley City, ND, US, 58072

**AUG 23 Prayer Service 07:00PM**

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**23**

Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel  
251 Central Ave. S., Valley City, ND, US, 58072

**AUG 24 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

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**24**

Saron Church  
11571 County Road 22, Cooperstown, ND, US, 58425

**AUG 24 Funeral Service 11:00AM**

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**24**

Saron Church  
11571 County Road 22, Cooperstown, ND, US, 58425

# Comments

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“ Torrey was a good friend of my husband Earl, going back to their college days at Concordia. Their friendship continued throughout the many years as we visited from Minnesota from time to time. Grace & Peace, Janet Eidbo

Janet Eidbo - September 22, 2020 at 11:51 PM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss. Torrey was always fun to visit with and so interesting. He always asked Lori about her horses and she was honored to give him a carriage ride around Cooper at his 90th birthday celebration. Take care and stay safe. Wayne and Lori Christopherson

Lori Christopherson - August 31, 2020 at 10:38 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Torrey's Celebration of Life Service



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - August 25, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ What a kind, good hearted man he was! My parents moved into the same condo as he lived in years back. He quickly became friends with them. My dad enjoyed visiting with him so very much. After they moved out, your dad never forgot who we were and always remembered my parents. He will forever be with you in spirit & many memories.

Diane Sommerfeld - August 24, 2020 at 01:22 PM

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“ Louanna, I didn't know your Dad or your family but I do want to send my Sympathy to you in the loss of your Dad. Cherish the Precious Memories! You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Marlene Fritch

**Marlene Fritch** - August 23, 2020 at 07:30 PM

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“ A life well lived! The Lord and his Angels welcome him home! God Bless his Soul and life. Wish we were there to share the sorrow.  
Richard and Mary- Rapid City, SD

**Richard Horkey** - August 23, 2020 at 05:36 PM

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“ Dear Family

My sympathy on the passing of Torrey. A very nice man who was always concerned with how you were doing when you chatted.

**Tom Goven** - August 23, 2020 at 04:39 PM

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“ Gail you & your family are in my thoughts & prayers. Judy Mathias

**Judy Mathias** - August 23, 2020 at 10:25 AM

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“ Louanna, Gail, & Betsy, I am so sorry to hear of Torrie's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him over the years.

**Kory Johnson** - August 22, 2020 at 06:10 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Torrey Berge.



August 21, 2020 at 04:13 PM