



Harold F. Nilles

April 29, 1935 - July 15, 2017

The funeral mass for Harold F. Nilles, 82, will be 11 am Thursday, July 20, at St. Catherine Catholic Church, Valley City. Visitation will be 5 -7 pm Wednesday at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City with a prayer service at 7 pm in the chapel. Visitation will continue one hour before the service in the church. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery, Valley City. He died July 15, 2017 at Sanford Palliative Care Unit in Fargo, North Dakota.

Harold was born on April 29, 1935 to Frank and Johanna Nilles. He grew up in Durbin, North Dakota on the family farm. He attended a one room schoolhouse, in Everest, North Dakota and graduated from Lincoln High School in Casselton, North Dakota. Harold attended St. John's University for a short time before transferring to North Dakota State University where he received his degree in Pharmacy.

After college he spent some time in California, before returning and beginning his career at the Casselton Drug store. He met Elaine Pedersen and they were married June 25, 1960 in Casselton. They moved to Valley City in 1961 where he began working at Dakota Drug. Harold was active in the Jaycee's; Elks, where he was a Past Exalted Ruler; and the 24th district Republican Party, serving as its treasurer for 26 years.

After spending quality time in St Luke's Hospital, Fargo, as a result of contracting Gullian-Barre Syndrome, also known as French Polio in 1984, Harold became known as "the hat man of St. Luke's". When he returned home he began working at Valley Drug, which he later bought and then sold when

he retired.

Harold was awarded the Outstanding Handicapped Citizen award in 1987, and before his retirement he was granted a life-time pharmacy license.

Harold loved working with wood and spent many enjoyable hours making a variety of products for gifts for family and friends or for sale. Other interest included gardening, photography, wine making, and making homemade horseradish. Working with model railroads was also a favorite pastime.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elaine, parents Frank and Johanna, and one brother Paul.

He is survived by his children, Sharon Nilles (friend, Mike McCrossin), Bangor, Maine and Jon Nilles, Valley City, along with his brothers and sisters, Audrey (Leroy) Dauner, Hawley, Minnesota, James (Joyce) Nilles, Faulkton, South Dakota, Rosemary Trom, Gilbert, Iowa, Carl Nilles, Fessenden, North Dakota, Donald (Mary Ellen) Nilles, Casselton, Mary Ann (Edwin) Cooke, Fargo, David (Jenell) Nilles, Fargo, and Deborah (Scott) Smith, Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank City-County Health, Valley City, especially Lori Corwin, Tammy Langland and Ilene Ryan, who helped Harold maintain his independence.

Memorials may be made to the GBP/CIPD Foundation, 375 East Elm Street, Suite 101, Conshohocken, PA 19428. www.gbs-cipd.org or the Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org

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

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Valley City, ND

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

JUL 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Catherine Catholic Church
540 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall

LT

“ i was a classmate of Harold's. My sincere sympathy to his children and families. Despite all his health problems he overcame and did a lot of good things in his life. He was a good man. My prayer to all of you.

Lila Thoen

Lila Thoen - July 28, 2017 at 12:16 PM

BL

“ Harold did such beautiful woodworking. One time when I borrowed Elaine's lease equipment to use for our WELCA project, he had been making trivet so I bought one for each of our girls who used to call her Grandma. Amy is a pharmacist in North Carolina and Erin works with Epic, the software used at Sanford. When she started there in the insurance department, she got to be friends with a relative of Harold's.

I am sorry that Robert and I are out of the state and unable to attend Harold's funeral.

Beverly Loken - July 20, 2017 at 10:07 AM

MS

“ I was sad to read about Harold's passing. I worked at St.Lukes/Merit Care during his struggle with French Polio. We would compare notes as I had the other kind of polio. He was a wonderful man and I remember the hats. He will be missed by all who with whom he came in contact. My sympathy to all the family. Marion Sansted

Marion Sansted - July 19, 2017 at 07:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harold F. Nilles.*



July 18, 2017 at 10:51 AM



“ *What a great guy. You were so busy. I loved your birdhouses and wooden things you made. I remember the year in the hospital as well. You went home the day I said good-bye to Int. NICU when I went to have my back surgery. I was blest to be able to see you in your store, home and later years in your shop. RIP my friend. May God comfort your family and loved ones*

Bernice Trautman - July 18, 2017 at 08:55 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Harold F. Nilles.*



July 17, 2017 at 09:38 PM



“ *I knew Harold when we were both at NDAC In pharmacy. He was a member of our fraternity, Sigma Chi. I remember Harold as a serious student and a loyal member of Sigma Chi. I visited him in Valley City at his store. He was a great person and will be missed by all who knew him.*
Percy Jolstad, EX

percy jolstad - July 17, 2017 at 08:56 PM

PW

“ I will always remember Uncle Harold as a woodworker and a wine maker:) He was such a talented man. I always picture him smiling! The picture you have chosen for this page is perfect!!

Pam Wolf - July 17, 2017 at 08:44 PM

L(

“ Throughout my childhood, Harold was my bonus Grandpa. He and Elaine sent my sister and I greeting cards for every holiday -even Halloween- almost always with a Susan B Anthony or another special coin. Every Christmas, we eagerly looked forward to their delivery of homemade treats. Harold and Elaine spoiled us with their love and attention. I hope us girls brought them joy, like they shared with us. I'll never forget his smile, his voice, and the neat set-up he had for driving their minivan. I think of him every time I use my trivet.

Lauren Hoffman (Hedman) - July 17, 2017 at 01:49 PM

JN

“ To Sharon and John and the Nilles family. My deepest sympathy to you and extended families. As time passes and along with it those who have joined us on the journey we are left with great memories of Harold and Elaine. As, Harold once said to me "We are only visitors" Love and blessings. J Dennis Nelson FL

J Dennis Nelson - July 17, 2017 at 11:57 AM