



Ronald Irvin Tolstad

September 12, 1934 - August 24, 2018

Ronald Irvin Tolstad died peacefully in his home surrounded by loved ones on August 24, 2018 in Valley City, ND. He was 83 years old.

Ron was born on September 12, 1934 to Albert and Johanna Tolstad on the Tolstad family farm near Dazey, ND. He graduated from Dazey High School in 1952. He attended NDSU where he was a proud member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. In 1953, Ron and childhood friends, Gerry Bender and Doug Quick, enlisted in the Army. He was honorably discharged in 1955 and returned to NDSU for another year.

Ron married the love of his life, Billie LaVonne Ledbury, on September 2, 1956. They were a team for 47 years. They lived in Grand Forks before moving to Valley City where they owned and operated Ron's Body Shop from 1965 to 1999.

Ron lived and taught his children a life of service. Along with his proud service in the Army, he was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, a 56-year member of Dazey American Legion Post 0149, a 50 year member of Eagles Aerie Post 2192, two time Commander of VFW Post 2764, served in the VFW Color Guard, a lifetime member of the Order of the Cooties, and a third generation member of the Elks.

In 2016, Ron had the privilege to attend the WDAY Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. with friend Dave Zeller and other veterans. He talked about the trip with great pride and enthusiasm.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, and brothers Alan Tolstad, Ray Tolstad and sister JoAnn Bakken.

Ron is survived by his kids: Pat France (Jeff) of Loretto, MN; Lorrie Coker (Travis) of Abilene, TX; Ron Tolstad, Jr. (Maurine) of Bismarck, ND; and Vicki Kopplin (John) of Coon Rapids, MN. He also cherished his six grandchildren, Jason France (Amanda), Osterburg, PA; Jessie France (David Andrs) of Richfield, MN; Ruby Tolstad, Bismarck, ND; CPL, USMC, Matt Kopplin of San Diego, CA; and Becca Porter (Drew) of Madison, WI. He had four great-grandchildren, Madison and Owen France, Cameron Andrs and Charles France and countless nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 28 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Valley City, ND. Immediately following the service, the burial will be held at Memory Gardens. Visitation will be at Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City on Monday, August 27 from 5 to 7 pm.

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Good-byes are always hard, but the memories are ever-lasting. I have so many, even one as a little kid when you were still living at home, getting ready to go out on a date (I'm guessing it was with Billie!) In my heart, you're still there, wishing I could visit whenever I'm in Valley City...with Love to your Kids (who all did a marvelous job participating in your final journey...) Alana

Alana Tolstad - August 29, 2018 at 08:41 PM

PF

Thank you Alana.

Pat France - September 01, 2018 at 11:33 AM

TN

“ Tom & Caral Nix lit a candle in memory of Ronald Irvin Tolstad



Tom & Caral Nix - August 28, 2018 at 02:13 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald Irvin Tolstad.



August 27, 2018 at 03:55 PM

LR

“ Ron was a good and decent man. He was proud of his family and grandchildren. Everyone liked Ron. His smile said it all. He was a gentle, caring and friendly person. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Larry and Mary Lee Robinson, Valley City

Larry Robinson - August 27, 2018 at 03:30 PM

PF

Thank you so much

Pat France - September 01, 2018 at 11:34 AM

TG

“ *Dear Family*

*My condolences on the passing of Ron.
He was a good guy will be missed.*

Tom Goven

Tom Goven - August 27, 2018 at 10:08 AM

PF

Thank you Tom

Pat France - September 01, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of
Ronald Irvin Tolstad.*



August 27, 2018 at 09:15 AM

JM

“ *Julie Miller lit a candle in memory of Ronald Irvin Tolstad*



Julie Miller - August 26, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald Irvin Tolstad.*



August 26, 2018 at 04:22 AM