



Willis Franklin Wagar

August 31, 1936 - September 13, 2021

Willis Wagar's funeral service will be viewable at <https://vimeo.com/607444159>

Willis Wagar, Valley City, ND passed away peacefully Monday, September 13, 2021 at Sanford Health Fargo, ND. The funeral service will be 2:00 pm, Saturday, September 18 at First Baptist Church, Valley City with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Memory Gardens, Valley City.

Willis Franklin Wagar was born August 31, 1936 at home in rural, Inkster, ND to Raymond and Myrtle (Toppin) Wagar. He graduated from Inkster High School in 1954 as valedictorian. From 1955-1957 Willis was in the service as a civilian officer and served in the Civilian Work Program at the Grafton State Hospital. After the service in July 1957, he moved to Valley City and began selling Watkins products until the fall of 1959.

On October 4, 1958 Willis was united in marriage to Mary Jewel Benson in Valley City. In 1959 they moved to a farmstead near Grygla, MN. He contracted with the forest service to cut spruce and poplar and manned the Linder Fire Tower. He also farmed.

In March of 1963, the Wagar family moved back to Valley City, and he worked for Benson Nursery. In the fall of 1963, Willis also began working at the boiler plant at VCSU and continued with Benson Nursery. He began college classes in 1965 and graduated in 1971. Willis was then hired at VCSU as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor until his retirement in 1995.

In 1988, Willis and Mary bought Fritch's Greenhouse and Nursery with their son James and his wife Eydie Wagar which they sold in March 2005.

Willis was actively involved in the ministry at the Southwest Bible Chapel in Valley City. He was a member of Kiwanis, Gideon's International, Toastmaster's, and a 4-H leader.

Willis is survived by his wife, Mary; children: Jacquelyn (Tom) Ueland, Ulen, MN; Joel (Faye) Wagar, Rochester, MN; James (Eydie) Wagar, Valley City; Jennifer (Ewald) Horst, South Range, WI; and Jon (Patty) Wagar, Valley City; 26 grandchildren and 18 great

grandchildren. Willis is also survived by his siblings: Donald (Joyce) Wagar, Willmar, MN; Doris Johnson, Omaha, NE; Myrna Ferris, Cedar Rapids, IA; Lois (Greg) Koehn, Lushton, NE; Jeannene Goerke, Valley City; Lee (Holly) Wagar, Owasso, OK; Beverly (Harold) Roeding, Allison, IA.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents; step- brother David Evenson; grandson, Christopher Wagar; and brothers in law Robert Johnson, Jim Ferris, and Wayne Vleck.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

SEP 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall

PO

“ Sincere condolences to Mary and the family as well as Willis' siblings. What an example for all of the 4-H kids who came in contact with him through the years. May your hearts be comforted in knowing that his life had meaning for so many people.

His life was a witness every single day of his life. Treasure the memories you have and

tuck them deep in your hearts.

Durward, Phyllis Otterness and family

phyllis otterness - September 17, 2021 at 09:18 PM

DC

“ Jane and I send our sympathy to all family members. I was blessed to have known Bill and to have worked with him at the nursery during my high school years. Such a hard working man and a great Christian example, but he had a great sense of humor too. I was also blessed to have Bill for our teen Sunday school teacher. He gave us much practical teaching from God's word.

Dennis Clark - September 16, 2021 at 06:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willis Franklin Wagar.



September 16, 2021 at 04:34 PM

YF

“ Your Berean Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Willis Franklin Wagar.



Your Berean Family - September 16, 2021 at 12:56 PM

JN

“ To Willis' family. I was honored to have known him for many years. Very few could outwork him, God bless his memory. J Dennis Nelson Melbourne FL

j dennis nelson - September 15, 2021 at 09:02 PM

BR

“ Brother Bill was a real blessing to Wayne & I when we moved to Valley to live. Wayne really respected Bills opinion . He was an encouragement to us. He loved his Lord and had wisdom and kind respect for those whom he shared his deep faith in God.

Beverly (Vleck) Roeding - September 15, 2021 at 09:07 AM

RS

“ Bill was a wonderful person. He was always very friendly and welcoming. I always liked Bill. Sorry for your loss. Russ

Russ Steinhaus - September 14, 2021 at 09:30 PM

MF

“ A wonderful brother who I looked up to and respected! Loved you Bill!

Myrna Ferris - September 14, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Willis Franklin Wagar.



September 14, 2021 at 08:36 PM

LK

“ My brother was a VERY hard worker. I was not very old when he graduated from high school and moved out. But when I was in my pre-teens, I remember I was at a reunion where there were a lot of family members. I remember Mary said Bill would stop in for a bit between his 2 full time jobs....plus if you look at those years listed in the obituary, he was going to college almost full time as well. I asked him when he came, when did you sleep, and he said he could get by on 3 to 4 hours of sleep, sometimes less each night. I still remember that, cause I sure could not do that!

Lois Koehn - September 14, 2021 at 08:35 PM

MC

I only knew Uncle Bill since November. Everytime I got a chance to talk to him, I felt as if I'd known him for years. I'm sad that he's gone but I know where he is, with Jesus and Our Father in Heaven! Thank you for the memories Uncle Bill, we'll see you soon, well, hopefully not too soon, I haven't caused enough trouble here on earth yet! Rest in Peace!

Mick Cotton - September 15, 2021 at 10:36 PM

AM

“ Such a special guy! I'm happy that Mike, Amy ,Bill and I made a trip up to Inkster to visit the cemetery where Grandpa and Grandma Wagar are buried. Also went out to his home where he grew up. Fond memories!!

Ardis Martin - September 14, 2021 at 05:03 PM

LR

“ Willis leaves a legacy of hard work and dedication to his community, his employer and his family. His service to Valley City State University was exemplary. He was a key player in the growth and expansion of the campus. His leadership and vision resulted in a host of improvements to campus facilities. Willis had a work ethic that was second to none. He was personable and outgoing, always having time for a visit. Willis directed the development of the Facilities Services Department on the campus. He will be missed. May he rest in peace!

Larry Robinson - September 14, 2021 at 02:08 PM

BR

Brother Bill will be missed. He went out of his way to help Wayne and I when we moved to Valley. We really respected Bills opinion. We were blessed by knowing him and his live for the Lord.

Beverly (Vleck) Roeding - September 15, 2021 at 08:59 AM

KW

Our heartfelt sympathy to Mary and family. Ken remembers attending college with Willis and in one class, the teacher gave out a list of 500 questions and said some of these will be on the finals. Ken typed out all the questions in triplicate and gave a copy to Willis and another guy who looked us all the answers. All three got A's. time well spent in the college library. Our son, Phil, worked for Willis at the Nursery and we were sure glad when he came and cleaned up some rock piles. The boys loved it when Willis was the judge at 4-H speech and demostration day. Always a good visit with him. He will be missed by not only his loving family but the VC community as well.

Ken and Darlene Weshnevski - September 15, 2021 at 05:13 PM