



Garry O'Callaghan

September 6, 1918 - February 22, 2011

Garry O'Callaghan Jr., 92, died February 22, 2011 with his loving wife and family by his side at Edgewood Vista Retirement home, Fargo, ND. Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Friday, February 25, at Eastgate Funeral Service, Bismarck. Garry was born on September 6, 1918, at the family ranch in Buchanan Valley Township in Emmons County, North Dakota Hazelton. Garry, the eldest son of Garret and Eliza Clark O'Callaghan, and his brother, James, felt privileged to grow up in the "beautiful wide open spaces of North Dakota." He was raised on their "pioneer farm" as his father and grandfathers were original homesteaders. On July 27, 1941, Garry married Frieda Pauline Grenz and they raised two sons, Allen and Larry, on the family ranch northwest of Hazelton, ND, where they farmed from 1945 to 1984. Garry was an active member of the American Legion, VFW, Masonic Lodge and Elks; president and member of the Hazelton School Board; and a member of the Hazelton Presbyterian Church. He was one of the first farmers to introduce irrigation to the Emmons County area, and was a founding member of the Missouri Slope Irrigation Development Association. Frieda died from a farm machinery accident in 1980. They were truly farming partners as she provided a great amount of help with Garry. Through mutual friends, Garry met Mabel Nordine Hedstrom and on February 4, 1984, they married. They enjoyed traveling and spent many winters together in New Mexico and Arizona. When residing in Bismarck Garry and Mabel welcomed family and friends into their home and enjoyed gardening together. In their early years

dancing was an enjoyment they shared. He was also engaged in many wood working projects: building tables, wall hangings, clocks and numerous other items. In 2007 they moved to Fargo to be nearer to family. Both Garry and Mabel enjoyed watching the "weather channel" and were always conversing on a day-to-day basis about what they were hearing in the news. In Garry's last hours, Mabel was the devoted and loving caregiver that she was in their 27 years of marriage. In Garry's later years he became computer savvy and spent many hours at his desk documenting his life stories with words and pictures. In 1996, he published his memoirs, "A Pioneer's son – A Country Boy's Life." As a proud veteran, Garry left poignant memoirs in his publication, "Memoirs of Garry O'Callaghan: My 1462 Days in World War II." Both were written with love and are wonderful gifts to his family! Garry hated war but was very proud to have served his country. He loved his family and will be missed by all that knew him. Garry's military service was from 24 Sep 1941 to 12 Oct 1945 with rank of PFC, Tech/5, Corporal. He served in World War II, Army, Japanese Southeast Asia Theater, Artillery, Forward Observer, Okinawa, 97 days combat. He received Service Awards for Good conduct medal, expert shooter, Asiatic Pacific medals with star, seven gold overseas bars, with 116 combat days. Garry is survived by his wife of 27 years, Mabel Nordine/Hedstrom O'Callaghan, Fargo, ND; two sons, Allen Elaine, Omaha, NE and Larry Marilyn, Fargo, ND; brother, James O'Callaghan, Des Moines, IA; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Tara Chad Kalal and Harper & Luca, St. Petersburg, FL; Brennon Shelly O'Callaghan and Elizabeth & Devon Garry, Maple Grove, MN; Ryan Casey O'Callaghan and Caelan; Starlyn Joshua Green and Adella; and Keenan O'Callaghan, all of Bozeman, MT. Garry is also survived by step-grandchildren/great-grandchildren Nelson; Heidi Vince Williams and Brooklyn, Fargo, ND; Joshua Jill Nelson and Chloe, Talia, Brayden & Aubree, Fergus Falls, MN; Cody Michelle Nelson, and Camry & Carter, Casselton, ND; and many very special nieces and nephews. Preceded in death were parents: Garry and Eliza Clark O'Callaghan Sr., and first wife, Frieda Pauline Grenz O'Callaghan who passed away in 1980. The

funeral service will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 1 p.m. at Eastgate Funeral Home, 2302 East Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501. Interment at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Bismarck, ND.

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Larry and Family, Judy Stein notified me and I want to send my thoughts and prayers for you all. Gary will live on in your hearts and memories. Connie Arnold and Lenora Pederson daughter Rime

Constance Pederson Rime - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ZS

“ Dear Family, Sa sorry to hear of your loss, Gary was My father John's first cousin. We were able to visit with Gary on a couple of our visits back and Have the family book he wrote. I would love to hear from some of the family. I understand one son was keeping Geneology records and maybe we could trade some information. I have all the Suverly info but very little of the clark family prior to Gary's mother and my Grandmother. Agin our sincere thoughts and Prayers to all the family.

Zane A. Suverly - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I just heard last night about Garry's passing from Dick and Lorraine Chyles.It has been awhile since we seen Garry and Mabel and our sympathy goes out to you Mabel, Allen, Larry and families. I will contact more of the family in other states of Garry's passing in case they haven't heard.

Judy and Paul Stein - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Dear Auntie Mabel, If I remember correctly, my grandma Ida and Grandpa Lawrence Knoke were not totally thrilled when you married Garry. Come to find out they just didn't want to share you with anyone. It didn't take them long to come around though when they realized how good the two of you were together. We were all very happy to add him to our family. In the past years Garry was so good about keeping me updated as to your goings on in North Dakota. It is amazing that a person at his age could get to be so computer savvy. How fortunate the family is to have pictures and memoirs created by Garry. My thoughts and prayers are with you,as well as Larry, Allen and the rest of the family. God Bless, Susie Garrison Des Moines, Iowa PS I am planning to show my new 11 year old son North Dakota this summer. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Susie Garrison - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ Larry and family; So sorry to see your father has passed away, on behalf of the Heisler family we send our sympathy to you and your family..We just lost our dad one month ago so I know how you are feeling..Sorry I am unable to attend the funeral but know we are thinking of you.. God Bless Pat and Marcy HeislerVolk

Marcy Heisler Volk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Our uncle, Glen Spelhaug is also at Edgewood Vista. He ate at the same table as Garry and Mable. He talked of them, especially Garry, so much. He would share many cute stories of what the men talked about. Garry will be missed by his friends in Fargo.

Terry & Carlotta Spelhaug - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Larry, we are very sorry to hear of your fathers passing. I remember meeting your father and mother while we were in college. We so enjoyed your fathers book, his experiences and love for family and country. You and your family are in our prayers. Marsha & Dave Wikenheiser

Dave & Marsha Wikenheiser - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Larry and Family, So sorry to hear about Garry. Thoughts and prayers are with you from me and your Pifer Family. He is in a much better place, remember that. Take care.

Erika Bertsch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ So sorry for your loss, Larry & family.

Darla Iverson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM