



Neilan Hanson

August 20, 1944 - March 19, 2017

Neilan Hanson, 72, of Dows, passed away Sunday, March 19, 2017 at Israel Family Hospice in Ames. Funeral services will be 10:30 am Friday, March 24, 2017 at the First Lutheran Church in Dows. Burial will be at the Otis Grove Cemetery, Dows. Visitation will be from 5-8 pm on Thursday, March 23 at the church. Woodley Funeral Home, LLC of Iowa Falls is caring for Neilan and his family.

Neilan Hanson was born August 20, 1944 in Iowa Falls, Iowa to Evelyn and Kenneth Hanson of Dows, Iowa. The youngest of four children, he grew up on the farm where he lived with his wife of 50 years. Growing up, Neilan attended Dows Community Schools, where he participated in football and basketball, was a pitcher for the baseball team, and a state qualifier for the discus in track. He and his brothers were very active 4H members, with exhibits in the Communications project, and showed Ayrshire Cattle at various shows in Iowa and other states, as well as hogs at the Franklin County and Iowa State Fairs.

After graduating from Dows High School in 1962, he enrolled in Iowa State University. Neilan was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and during his sophomore year at ISU, he met Patricia Bryant. They were married on September 10, 1966 in Schaller, Iowa, and remained happily so for 51 years. Upon graduating from Iowa State University with a Bachelor's degree in Dairy Science, he was employed by Ralston Purina Company in Perry, Williamsburg

and Bancroft. Neilan left Purina in 1975, when the couple moved back to rural Dows to make their home and join the family farming operation with his brother Norman and father Kenneth. Neilan farmed for 42 years, with the major emphasis of the operation being corn and soybeans. Through the years, cattle and then sheep became a large part of the "Hanson Boys" farming operation, with the legacy of 4-H participation continuing with his own children, again, at the Franklin County and Iowa State Fair. Throughout his farming career, Neilan shared his passion for agriculture with many as a DeKalb Seed Corn dealer, and owned and operated a farm chemical and anhydrous business as well. Neilan retired in 2015.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Trish of Dows, Iowa; a daughter, Kari (Kevin) Bell of Nevada, Iowa; grandchildren: Hanna, Rebeka, Erik and Marii Bell; brother, Norman Hanson of Dows, Iowa; sister-in-law, Geraldine Hanson of Edmonds, WA; aunts, Shirley Weiss of Las Vegas, NV and Arlene Engelby of Iowa Falls, Iowa; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Neilan was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Erik Hanson; infant sister, Linda; brother, Merrill Hanson, sister-in-law Carol Hanson; his grandparents and numerous aunts and uncles.

Cemetery Details

Otis Grove Cemetery

Dows, IA 50071

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 23. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
206 W Ellsworth Street
Dows, IA 50071

Service

MAR 24. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
206 W Ellsworth Street
Dows, IA 50071

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Trish and family, I am so sorry I couldn't make it to the funeral from Florida. It was just too difficult to buy a ticket, get a ride home, etc. I talked to Marcia when she got home, so heard all about the funeral and update with all the kids. We have had so many good memories of coming to the farm, eating Evelyn's great cooking and keeping up with everyone. I am sorry you and he had to go through such a terrible time with this disease. May peace and love be with you as you continue on your life journey.

Love, Mary and George Warren

Mary & George Warren - March 25, 2017 at 08:55 PM

DW

“ Trish, it was extremely sad to hear that of Neilan's death. I know over the years we lost touch but my memories of him are still with me. He was one of the nicest guys I've met in my life and in our youth I considered him a close and dear friend. It's been years since I was at your farm and talked with him but I feel a terrible sense of loss all the same. I will always remember his charming smile and laughter.

Dennis Whipple

Dennis Whipple - March 24, 2017 at 10:49 PM

MB

“ I'm sorry we lost contact with you, Trish. I think of you often and the world will miss Neilan's beautiful smile and infectious laugh! Kari notified both Lisa and me. I can't convey in words how sorry I am for your loss. If I can do anything for you, Trish or Kari, please let me know. We were always going to get together for lunch in Ames...let's set a time and do it! Hope to see you Thursday. Love you all!
Margaret Houseman Den Beste

Margaret Den Beste - March 21, 2017 at 11:58 PM