

On Sunday evening, December 3, 2017, our beloved husband, father, brother and friend slipped peacefully from this life to meet his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Dad was a gentle, loving Christian man and an inspiration in all our lives.

Arnold Gravesen Dige was born April 13, 1926, the second of fourteen children born to Danish immigrants Otto and Emma (Gravesen) Dige in Sidney, MT. During his childhood and youth, he lived on the family farm just south of town and attended local schools. He was unable to graduate, however, as he and his brother Paul were needed to work the farm after their father suffered a heart attack. So began his career as a hard working farmer, raising sugar beets for more than 60 years.

Arnold married his friend and love, Adeline Hansen on Sunday, May 22, 1949 at Pella Lutheran Church. Over the next 17 years, they were blessed by the arrival of six children. As his family grew, Dad expanded his farm acreage and purchased cattle so there was steady income and work aplenty for his growing crew. He and Mom taught us the value of hard work – paying us 10 cents per row to hoe beans for example – and the reward for the morning's labor was a quick nap after lunch, on to the next chore and some of Mom's delicious treats at coffee time. When the weather cooperated, there were weekend trips to Brush Lake for water skiing and picnics with family and friends. On rare occasions even 3-day getaways to the Black Hills, which had been a favorite spot since Mom and Dad's honeymoon.

When the farming season ended, winter months were spent tending cattle and working on major home remodeling projects. Dad constantly strived to improve our lives. Even though farming was his passion and calling, Dad recognized the value of education and offered each of us kids the higher education of our choice.

Arnold was a life-long member of Pella Lutheran Church in Sidney and enjoyed participating in bible studies, Kogodus retreats and served on the council several times. He also enjoyed his long affiliations with the Montana Dakota Beet Growers Association and Richland Farm Mutual Insurance Company. As a couple, he and Adeline completed the Dale Carnegie course on public speaking, enjoyed Square dancing and in later years travelled to California and Arizona each winter to visit extended family and bask in the warm weather.

Throughout the years, one of Dad's favorite sayings was "If a little bit is good, a lot is better!" For him, this applied equally to hard work, time spent with family and friends, enjoying Adeline's home cooking and one's faith in God; those were his greatest joys.

With great sorrow, we watched this loving and generous soul slowly fade to only a faint shadow of the man we'd known due to the terrible effects of dementia. However, even in this journey, God bestowed blessings in the form of golden-hearted caregivers, first at the Country House in Dickinson and more recently at SHC's Angel Avenue. We cannot aptly express our gratitude to you all for the love and kindnesses shown to Arnold and our family these past 6 years.

Forever loving and missing him are his wife of 68 years, Adeline, their children, Russell (Janice) Dige, Rosalynn Stegmaier, Patricia (Dale) Powell, Marilyn (Steve) Pust, Rebecca (David) Reidle; thirteen beloved grandchildren, Shirley, Amanda, Paul, Jan, Robyn, Katie, Christy, Mark, Jonathan, Trevor, Erick, Shelby and Shany and ten dear great-grandchildren, Joe, Paul, Sara, Anna, Jack, Henry, Elizabeth, Greyson, Alexis & Shawn. Surviving siblings include Selma Nealson, Victor Dige, Betty Cholewinski, Robert Dige and Clara Jo Dige.

We are certain that Arnold is now reunited in Heaven with his son Anthony, his parents and siblings, Paul, Nels, an infant sister, Leon, Gerda, Gordon, Alvin and Shirley Dige, and son-in-law Robert Stegmaier.



*In Loving Memory Of*

***Arnold Gravesen Dige***

**April 13, 1926 - December 3, 2017**

## Close the Gate

For this one farmer the *worries are over*, lie down  
and rest your head,  
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the  
tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard, but your  
*faith in God* transcended,  
Put away your tools and *sleep in peace*. The fences  
have all been mended.

You raised a fine family, worked the land well and  
*always followed the Son*,  
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work  
here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your *journey through life*,  
often a jagged and stony way,  
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded, and here  
now is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin; the  
stories flow like fine wine,  
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by  
blessed rain *one final time*.

You always believed that the good Lord would  
provide and He always had somehow,  
*Take off your gloves* and put them down, no more  
sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now in heaven; no  
more must you wait,  
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we  
will *Close the gate*.

Nancy Kraayenhof

## Arnold G. Dige

Born

April 13, 1926 ~ Sidney, MT

Died

December 3, 2017 ~ Sidney, MT

**Funeral Services**

2:00 P.M., Friday, December 8, 2017

Pella Lutheran Church

Sidney, Montana

**Officiating**

Pastor Joel Westby

**Music**

Sharon Whited     Diane Beirwagen

**Bell Ringer**

Allan Herman

**Casketbearers**

Paul Dige     Jan Ackley

Mark Powell     Jonathan Powell

Erick Pust     Shanyn Reidle

**Honorary Casketbearers**

Shirley Turner     Amanda Dige

Robyn Stegmaier     Katie Stegmaier

Christy Powell     Trevor Pust     Shelby Reidle

**Ushers**

Dale Powell     Steve Pust

**Interment**

Sidney Cemetery     Sidney, MT

Lunch will be served in the church  
fellowship hall following graveside services

You may share your remembrances, condolences, and pictures with the  
family at the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home Website: [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com)

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