



Gary Haakenson

Born to Art & Glorys Haakenson

May 8, 1949

Stanley, North Dakota

Returned to His Heavenly Father

July 22, 2023

Tioga, North Dakota

Funeral Service

Friday, July 28, 2023, 11:00 AM

First Lutheran Church

Tioga, North Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Mike Olson

Music & Musicians

"We Have This Moment" ~ Rodger & Helene Olson

"In The Garden" ~ Brenda Kutter

"Amazing Grace" ~ Andy Anderson

"Jealous Of The Angels" ~ Donna Taggart

Pallbearers

Rick Haakenson

Darren Hauf

Leon Iverson

Earl Syverson

Kendell Erass

Lane Olson

Honorary Pallbearers

All of Gary's Grandchildren,

Family and Friends

Final Resting Place

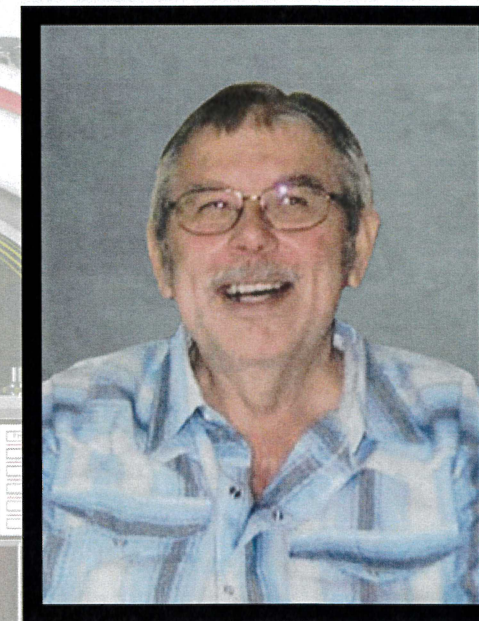
Zion Cemetery

McGregor, North Dakota

Arrangements By

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home

Tioga, North Dakota



Celebrating
A LIFE

Gary Alan Haakenson

May 8, 1949 - July 22, 2023

Gary A. Haakenson, 74, of Tioga, ND passed away Saturday, July 22, 2023 after his fight with cancer, at the Tioga Medical Center in Tioga, ND

Gary was born to Art and Glorys (Syverson) Haakenson on May 8, 1949. He was raised, baptized, and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He attended Tioga Public School where he played the trumpet in band, was in wrestling, basketball and football. People always told us he was one of the best football players to come out of Tioga, but he never felt that way. THS made history in his junior and senior years when the Tioga Pirates were the 1965 & 1966 Northwest Conference Champions. Gary was awarded MVP his senior year.

After graduation he entered the Air Force to become a medic, but after crawling around on the floor for a couple days during training at Fort Leonard Wood they discovered he had an extra vertebra, and he was honorably discharged.

Gary was united in marriage to Gail Ann Halgrimson, September 27, 1969 in McGregor, ND. They became parents to Heather, Heidi, Rick, Amber and Trista.

Over the years he worked for Kelly Coppage, Castle Insurance, R.A. Patel and finally settled back into his hometown of Tioga managing and eventually purchasing the Tioga Motel.

Gary loved sports of all kinds and was fond of watching many different games at one time. That is until the grandkids came along. They were the only ones who could get him to change the channel. We tried at times to steal the remote when he took a nap, even so much as removing it from his hand, but he woke up every time the channel changed. Then the grandkids introduced him to SpongeBob! After that you could always find him watching SpongeBob with them no matter what else was on and sometimes without the grandkids at all!

Gary loved music! He loved listening to the records he collected over the years. He also enjoyed making cassette tapes and CDs for family and friends. He loved going to concerts with Gail where he found a love of collecting autographs and meeting hundreds of artists in person. He had many creative ways of getting autographs.

He also enjoyed playing cards and was very competitive. Cards were always a form of entertainment at our house. People who had come for card night always said we should sell tickets due to entertainment value.

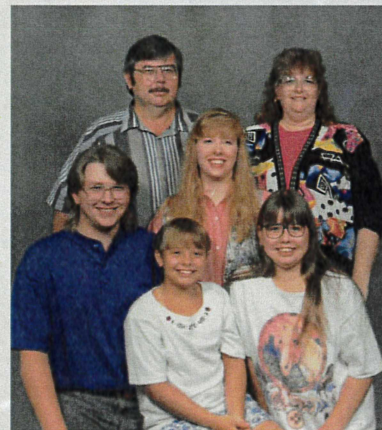
He always loved spur of the moment vacations. Several times we were woken up in the middle of the night packing bags and hitting the road. But his favorite time to take vacations always seemed to be during class reunions to Linda Faye and Kendell's dismay!

He had a love for old sitcoms like MASH and Andy Griffith. You could also find him watching the History and Discovery Channels. He enjoyed watching movies new and old. He had several favorite movies that he would watch on repeat. Gail was extremely happy the day he got his first pair of TV headphones. We could easily recite several of them word for word.

Gary loved spending time and visiting with his family and friends. He always had a bright smile and contagious laugh.

Gary is survived by his wife, Gail (Halgrimson) Haakenson of Tioga, ND; daughter, Heather (Darren) Hauf and their children, Ean, Brayden, and Carson of Benedict, ND; son, Rick (Annette Lovdahl) Haakenson and their children, Hannah, Katie, Alex and Ryan of McGregor, ND; daughter, Amber Haakenson of Tioga, ND; daughter, Trista Vandermark and her children, Kadin and Rosalie of Tioga, ND; brother, Kirk Haakenson; aunt, Lorella Haakenson of Washington; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Art and Glorys Haakenson; infant daughter, Heidi Lynne Haakenson (Heather's twin); grandson, Ethan Alex Haakenson; in-laws, Joe and Alvina Halgrimson.



*Country music
isn't a guitar,
it isn't a banjo,
it isn't a melody,
it isn't a lyric.
It's a feeling.*



One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me,"



The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I LOVE YOU and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints.

It was then that I carried you."

