

Wm C. Witteman
April 30, 1925 – May 26, 2009

Wm C. “Bill” Witteman, 84, Mohall; died Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at a Mohall nursing home.

He was born April 30, 1925 in Hoffman Township, Bottineau County, to William B. and Nelle (Hatton) Witteman. He attended Hoffman Township Prairie School and Mohall High School.

Bill and Ellen Kinzley were married January 15, 1947 in Minot. Bill farmed most all of his life. He first started farming with his dad from 1939 to 1946; they farmed in Hoffman Township and later in Cutbank Township. Bill and his brother, Farrell “Mic”, farmed together until 1971. During the early 1970’s, Bill’s three sons joined the farm operation with their father and uncle. Bill retired in 2000. He and Ellen lived on the farm until moving to Mohall in 1979.

Bill was a member of United Methodist Church, Mohall. He was a past president of the Mohall Community Club, a past president of the Anderson Manufacturing Board of Directors in Southy, Saskatchewan; past president of the Renville-Bottineau Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, was a director with the North Dakota Wheat Producers. He was instrumental in establishing the Lansford Farmers Elevator Co., and ran for the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1968. In 1988, Bill and Ellen enjoyed a “camper” trip with 17 other campers for a two month trip along the Alaska Highway, then flew on up to Point Barrow. Bill and Ellen have spent their winters in Arizona since 1973. He was a member of the Masons, Scottish Rites of Minot and Grand Forks, and the Shriners.

Family: loving wife of 62 years, Ellen; sons, William Michael (Susan) Witteman, Daniel (Diane) Witteman and Steven Witteman, all of Mohall; daughter, Mary Ellen (Michael) Duppong, Glen Ullin; grandsons, Jeffrey (Shari) Duppong, Bismarck; Curtis (Janell) Duppong, St. Martin, MN; Mark (Carrie) Duppong and Eric (Kelsy) Duppong, all of Glen Ullin; Sean (Melissa) Johnson, Aberdeen, SD; Jason (Karnell) Johnson, Mankato, MN; and Brady (Cara) Witteman, Mohall; granddaughter, Teresa Witteman, Aberdeen, SD; great-grandchildren, Zachary Duppong and Riley Mueller, Bismarck; Ethan, Allysa and Elizabeth Duppong, Glen Ullin; Ryan, Rachel and Sean Duppong, St. Martin; Cassidy Duppong, Glen Ullin; Jordan, Erin, and Keeley Johnson, Aberdeen, SD; and Kallie Wolseth, Carter Johnson, Mankato, MN; sister, Vivian McCarroll, Las Vegas, NV; sister-in-law, Sally Witteman, Mohall; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Farrell “Mic” Witteman, and brother-in-law, E.C. “Buz” McCarroll.

Funeral: Saturday, May 30, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Mohall

Burial: Mohall Community Cemetery



The Farmer's Creed

I believe a man’s greatest possession is his dignity and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.

I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person’s character.

I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honorable way a man can spend his days on this earth.

I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can’t buy.

I believe my children are learning values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.

I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth, and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free: the splendor of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, and the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

I believe that true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children grow tall in the sun, your whole family feels the pride that springs from their shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it; an honor that does not come to all men.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellow man, and by this standard I fear no judgement.

I believe when a man grows old and sums up his days, he should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life he’s lived.



I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.