



Walter M. Steiner

March 25, 1931 - April 8, 2021

Walter M. Steiner, age 90 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, April 08, 2021, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL.

He was born on March 25, 1931, in Highland, IL, the son of Louis and Louise (nee Meffert) Steiner.

On April 05, 1952, he married Betty J. Miener at Grantfork E&R Church. She survives in rural Highland.

He was a member of Evangelical United Church of Christ.

Walter, one of the first babies in the new Highland Hospital, was born March 25, 1931 to Louis and Louise (Meffert) Steiner. He grew up with his brother Milton and sisters Edith and Lillian on the family farm NE of Grantfork. He married Betty Miener on April 5, 1952, and together they made their home on the family farm where they later raised four daughters. While Walter would have loved but never had the chance to go to college, he and Betty worked hard to make sure their daughters did. Family was important to Walter and he loved spreading joy to children. His family worked hard together but played together, too, enjoying bonfires, hayrides, ice skating and more. There were many animals on his farm: sheep "to keep the pond banks clean," hogs "to pay for college," cattle "to keep us active," and horses "just for fun." He was

always eager to open the tractor door or saddle up a horse to share the experience with a friend. In fact, he even played Santa Claus at Famous Barr in St. Louis. Walter was a member of the Grantfork United Church and Highland Evangelical United Church of Christ. He was active in 4-H as a youth, winning the 4-H Grand Entry Award in 1948 for his hog project. As an adult, he served as a Leader of the Grantfork 4-H Club, instilling his love for “all things ag” among the local youth. Professionally, Walter was known as a pioneer in land conservation. His initial presentation on No-Till farming at a University of Illinois Extension meeting in the early 60’s was so well-received, they had to send out for more chairs and food. Walter helped design some of the earliest no-till farm implements, some of which were later rolled out by John Deere. Walter was integral to the development of Highland’s Silver Lake and Silver Lake Watershed Project which still manages the watershed today. Many years ago Walter and Betty were asked to participate in a Weather Observation Station, a national research project managed by the University of Florida/Gainesville; a project which is still ongoing today. His efforts were recognized with various awards including the 1983 Conservation Farmer of the Year for Madison County. His most recent award was for growing the highest-protein soybean in the State of Illinois, the result of years of analyzing and nurturing the soil, and some of which he still has in a Mason jar on his desk. Probably the highlight of his career was being asked to join the People to People Agriculture Mission to Eastern Europe, just as the Berlin Wall was going down. Walter wrote this tribute and prayer to commemorate the trip which he called “Gateway to the West 2000:” “As we left, there will soon be more bountiful prairie fields out East. We stopped to pause, in Berlin by the broken, battered, fallen wall; looking to the West we saw the healing scars of wars gone by. Flying from South to North we saw the gently flowing Rhine. Looking into the Dresden horizon we saw the twinkle of many stars, and as we gazed afar from the East or from the West, we saw the same bright star they saw. Our Father, we thank thee for having been in a Free Europe; free to be teachers and providers of those who are in need. We ask your blessing

upon this People to People group and all the other People to People groups around the world. We ask your guidance in research, education and development of all the different phases in European agriculture, European homes and European youth who will be the leaders of tomorrow. We hope and pray for peace and understanding throughout the Universe."In 75 years of farming, Walter used horse drawn plows and threshing machines to tractors and combines (John Deere were his favorite) and today's GPS-guided technology. Walter was a lifelong learner who loved to travel and try new things. He kept up with changes at Agronomy Days, Extension meetings, and trips to the U of I, Dixon Springs Research Center. A member of Farm Business Farm Management (FMFB and University of IL Cooperative Extension Service. A thoughtful steward of his land, Walter had a knack for fixing any problem through his resourcefulness and creativity. In his later years, Walter scaled back the acreage he farmed, but kept his hand in until he retired. Walter and Betty worked as a team over decades on the farm and in life. Walter was an inspiration to his family and friends. He was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include :

Wife - Betty J. Steiner, nee Miener, Highland, IL

Daughter - Beth A. Steiner, Highland, IL

Daughter - Karen L. (David) Clausing, Charleston, IL

Daughter - Diane L. (William E.) Branz, Edwardsville, IL

Daughter - Constance "Connie" J. (Todd M.) Allen, Hoover, AL

Grandchild - Christine M. Michels, Farmington, MN

Grandchild - Tom (Tonya) Clausing, McKinney, TX

Grandchild - Katherine Clausing, Tulsa, OK

Grandchild - Ryan Allen, Atlanta, GA

Grandchild - Kelly Allen, Hoover, AL

Great Grandchild - Emma Bubendorf, Farmington, MN

Great Grandchild - William Bubendorf, Farmington, MN

Sister - Lillian (Gene) Daiber, Marine, IL

Sister In-Law - Dorothy Steiner, Highland, IL

He was preceded in death by :

Father - Louis G. Steiner - Died 5/22/1994

Mother - Louise E. Steiner, nee Meffert - Died 6/22/1984

Infant Sister - Florence Steiner - Died 5/18/1923

Sister - Edith C. Ruehrup - Died 5/8/2020

Brother - Milton L. Steiner - Died 7/5/2008

Brother In-Law - Elmer Ruehrup - Died 10/17/1992

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL .

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Evangelical United Church of Christ or Grantfork United Church of Christ or Donor's Choice.

Tribute Wall

SL

“ Betty and all of the family, My sincere sympathy to all of you on Walter's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him. I think the last time was at the fair in Highland. He was a strong supporter of agriculture in our area. He will be missed. Sincerely, Steve Launius, Nashville, Illinois

Steve Launius - April 16, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.



April 14, 2021 at 10:32 AM

CA

“ This man meant so much to our family. So many wonderful memories of two boys chasing him down at every opportunity to help with the animals or ride in tractors. Walter took us under his wing and trained us on everything we would listen to. Soil conservation, horsemanship, septic systems....So many lessons. I don't know how many men would take a landlord role and turn it into such a deep relationship. So grateful for his impact on all the Adolph's lives for more than 20 years.

Cory Adolph - April 14, 2021 at 10:04 AM

DM

Our thoughts are with you at this time.
Mr Miller

Don Miller - April 30, 2021 at 10:03 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.*



April 13, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ *We send our deepest condolences to Betty and all of the girls and families. We regret we will be unable to attend the visitation/service, but send you our love and prayers.*
Sincerely, Ed and Cherie Sievers

Cherie Sievers - April 12, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.*



April 12, 2021 at 10:03 PM

PH

“ Dear Betty, Beth, Karen, Diane and Connie,
I have so many happy memories of spending time with your family, especially on the farm. Walter was always so busy being a great farmer, but still had time for his family and for fun. He was interested in everyone and everything around him, and was interesting to converse with. He would always remember Randy and me on the few times we happened to see him in more recent years. He will be greatly missed, but thankfully you have so many wonderful memories to enjoy. You have our sincere sympathy. Peggy and Randy

Peggy Haukap - April 12, 2021 at 09:44 PM

JF

“ Judy Clausing, Chris and Mike, the Nordin Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Walter M. Steiner.



Judy Clausing, Chris and Mike, the Nordin Family - April 12, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.



April 12, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.*



April 11, 2021 at 11:39 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to the family. Thoughts prayers and love hugs to everyone. He was a wonderful person good friend*

Mary beth Broughton - April 11, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ *Mary Beth Broughton lit a candle in memory of Walter M. Steiner*



Mary beth Broughton - April 11, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Walter passing, our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Peggy (Duft) & Vern Lux

Peggy Lux - April 11, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter M. Steiner.*



April 11, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ *We send sincere sympathy to all of his family.*

Bob & Beckie Schrumpf - April 10, 2021 at 08:47 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss will be keeping you in our prayers.*

Jean Gilomen - April 10, 2021 at 12:21 PM