



Paul Christopher Popiel

June 21, 1927 - December 28, 2019

Paul Christopher Popiel, age 92, entered into eternal life Saturday, December 28, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family. A Vigil Service will be held at 7:00 PM on Friday, January 3, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beach, North Dakota. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at St. John's Catholic Church with Father Dan Berg officiating. Rite of Committal with Military Honors will be held at 1:00 pm (CST) on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Paul was born on June 21, 1927 on the family farm south of Wibaux, Montana, near St. Phillip's. He was the twelfth of thirteen children born to John and Mary (Stefanowich) Popiel. Paul grew up in the St. Phillip's and Wibaux area. While in high school, he worked for Tony Barthel as a farm hand. At the age of seventeen, he left school and entered the military, joining the Army Air Force and served for three years. After his discharge, he returned to the Wibaux area and worked for Ray Feragan in the Carlyle area and also Brengles in Beach, before going to work at Kennedy's Drug Store in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota where he met his beautiful bride Merdythe Cook. Paul and Mert were married June 1, 1953 at St. Michaels Catholic Church in Sentinel Butte. They made their home in Sentinel Butte for fifty years; living in the same house they bought that was the telephone office, adding to it as their family grew.

Dad always had a love for horses, especially Appaloosa, as well as raising cattle and always had a milk cow. He taught all of his kids' good work ethics with all the chores that came along with the cows and horses. Paul also worked for By Hogoboom at his service station. He was a Fire Chief for several years as well as the town Marshall, a job his kids will remember as the times when the "bums" would come to the house and ask to sleep at the jail. He also spent nights up on Sentinel Butte hill guarding the towers and protecting them from getting shot at. Mom and Dad had a system, if he was needed at home, mom would turn the outside light off and on and he could see it from the butte and knew he was needed at home. He also worked at the Post Office, first as a clerk and later as a Rural Mail Carrier, a career he had for over forty years. They both held State Offices for Rural Carriers Association which took them all over the state and several different states for conventions. They will always treasure the many friends they acquired through the conventions.

Paul was so proud of his family and is survived by his loving wife of sixty-six years, Mert; his seven children, Steve (Pam), Ken (Shelley), Mary (John) Egan, Chris (Elroy) Marcusen, Tyler, Marla (Mike) Zinsli and Karla (Dan) Jones; his thirteen grandchildren, Heather (Stacey) Baumann, Corinne (Travis) Risovi, Nathan (Kari) Popiel, Taylor (fiancé Megan) Egan, Jayden, Jayson (fiancé Tracey), Katie and Leah Marcusen, Morgan (Dan) Bettini, Mickayla (Josh) Rosard, Danny, Riley and Dakota Jones; his nineteen (soon to be twenty) great grandchildren, Malayna, Cara and Cole Baumann, Annie, Taytum, Jove, Ryder and Trey Risovi, Lydell Dutchuk, Jack, Ty and Hailey Popiel, Rhiannon and Zoie Herrod and Thea Egan, Corbin, Conner, Brynlee and Bentley Jones and soon to be baby, Bettini. He is also survived by his youngest sister, Betty Heinrich, brother-in-law, Rex Cook, sisters-in law, Rella Abernethy and Mary Cook as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his Mother and Father, his siblings and their spouses, Rose (Bill) Boothe, Cecelia Popiel (age sixteen), Joe (Leona) Popiel, Helen (Bill) Dye, Stephen (Ella Mae), Frank (Rose), George (Marion), John

(Lois), Ray (Connie and Helen), Regina Popiel, Delores (Don) Lunder, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Clarence Heinrich, Phil Cook, Ann Cook, Marlyn Jefferies Langrud, Jim Jefferies, Gordon Langrud, Don Abernethy, Joe Cook and his mother and father-in-law, Taylor and Evelyn Cook.

The family is so grateful for the visits and prayers from Father Dan and Deacon Jim W. as well as the Eucharist Minister that came to bring him communion. Paul also was so happy and grateful for the wonderful visits from the neighbors, especially Linda M., Vera K. and Germaine.

Memorials, if desired, can be made to the Golden Valley Manor, Home on the Range or Hospice. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralshomes.com.

Cemetery Details

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

1825 46th Street
Mandan, ND 58554

Previous Events

Vigil Service

JAN 3. 7:00 PM (MT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
162 2nd Avenue Northeast
Beach, ND 58621

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 4. 11:00 PM (MT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
162 2nd Avenue Northeast
Beach, ND 58621

Rite of Committal

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery
1825 46th Street
Mandan, ND 58554

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul Christopher Popiel*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Both Bobbie and Bernie Kennedy of Sentinel Butte and Dickinson had great respect for Paul and the Popiel family. Paul will be remembered as a kind man with a warm sense of humor, and a great love for his family. May he rest in peace. Coleen (Kennedy) Roller*

Coleen Roller - January 04, 2020 at 09:10 PM



“ *My prayers are with the family. I remember Paul as the postmaster. Always had a kind word and a great smile when we went into the post office in Sentinel Butte. May he rest in peace with God.*

Debby Brown Martin - January 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *Val and I pray for comfort and peace for Paul's family. May he rest in peace.*

Carol Obrigewitch - January 02, 2020 at 10:42 AM



“ *To the family of Paul Popiel you have my deepest sympathy may the Angels of God carry him to the arms of our Savior*

Maurice Lardy - January 01, 2020 at 08:41 PM

DM

“ *Deb McDanold lit a candle in memory of Paul Christopher Popiel*



Deb McDanold - December 31, 2019 at 09:28 PM

SL

“ *Dear Mert and family, my prayerful sympathy! Paul, God's faithful servant, gracious and gentle and kind! You chose the right picture of him; I will always remember his smile! May he know God's special welcome of love and peace and joy. Sincerely, Sister Susan Lardy*

SUSAN LARDY - December 31, 2019 at 07:35 PM

JF

“ *Joe Popiel's Family purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Paul Christopher Popiel.*



Joe Popiel's Family - December 31, 2019 at 01:02 PM

MM

“ *Mert & Family,
I am so sorry for your loss of husband and dad. Paul was one of a kind and I so enjoyed working with him at the post office. He was a big tease with a big heart. May the Angels Come to Greet Him. You are all in my prayers!
Marilyn Moe*

Marilyn Moe - December 31, 2019 at 12:21 PM

KS

“ *Deepest sympathy to all of your family, prayers of strength and healing.*

Ken Stockwell - December 31, 2019 at 12:12 PM

YC

“ *Your friends and colleagues at CMC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul Christopher Popiel.*



Your friends and colleagues at CMC - December 31, 2019 at 11:25 AM