

Duane R. Smith, age 91, of Albert City, Iowa, died Monday, April 4, 2016 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Duane Roscoe Smith, the second child of Roscoe and Fern (Johnson) Smith was born near Laurens, Iowa, on March 30, 1925. His childhood years were spent on farms around the Laurens, Marathon, and Webb areas where he received his education, graduating from the Garfield-Webb High School in 1943.

Duane married Ardis Lavohn Ryon on September 18, 1945, at Dakota City, Nebraska. They farmed together near Laurens until 1967 when the family moved to their farm near Albert City that they had purchased in 1961.

Farming was his life. He loved the farm, its nature and challenges. He was a master mechanic and builder. He would often engineer projects whether building something with just a few boards or tearing apart and rebuilding a combine, tractor, or other piece of machinery. He took great pride in knowing the mechanics of keeping his farm machinery in repair. He also raised cattle, hogs, and sheep for many years.

Duane had a deep love of country music and dancing. He and Lavohn enjoyed dancing for many years from square dancing to ballroom dancing to the 2-step to polkas, he loved them all and for a couple of years they also gave dance lessons in and around the area.

He enjoyed visiting with friends and family and was a master storyteller. He loved sharing his knowledge of history and reminiscing about the earlier years in farming with others.

For many years, Duane was an active member of the Albert City Threshermen Association where he helped oversee the threshing. He also served as treasurer of the Buena Vista County Cattlemen's Association for several years. With declining health, he entered the Pleasant View Home in Albert City in 2008.

He leaves behind his wife of 70 years, Lavohn, of Albert City, his sons: Don Smith of New Prague, Minnesota, Dennis (Donna) Smith of Rembrandt, Iowa, Randy (Kellie) Smith of Marathon, Iowa, his daughter: Darlys Blomberg of Springfield, Virginia, 8 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, his sister: Violet Harris of Marion, Iowa, sister-in-law: Dorothy Smith of Laurens, Iowa, other extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister: Norma Reardon, his brothers: Meryl (Colleen) Smith and Alan Smith, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law: Gene and Marjorie Jonas, two grandsons: Kyle and Kevin Blomberg.

In Loving Memory



Duane R. Smith

1925 — 2016

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 is heaven; no more must you wait,

Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

— Nancy Kraayenhof

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the many kindnesses evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. You are invited to join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the church immediately following the service.

— The Family of Duane Smith



IN MEMORY OF Duane Roscoe Smith

March 30, 1925 — April 4, 2016

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, April 8, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Albert City, Iowa

CLERGY

Pastor John Mayer

ORGANIST

Margit Behrens

SOLOIST

Sam Aronson
"In The Garden"

SPECIAL RECORDED MUSIC

"Go Rest High On The Mountain" — Vince Gill
"When I Get Where I'm Going" — Brad Paisley

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Eugene Johnson, Darlow Fuchs, Joy Smith
Duane Miller, Bob Brummer, Gerrit Dresselhuis, Gerald Liesveld

CASKET BEARERS

Jason Smith, Stacey Smith, Brandon Smith
Brent Smith, Bill McDonald, Tim Smith

INTERMENT

Laurens Cemetery — Laurens, Iowa

Arrangements by

SLIEFERT FUNERAL HOMES

www.sliefert.com

Albert City • Marathon • Sioux Rapids • Storm Lake