



Charles Wingert

April 1, 1938 - March 21, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Charles D. Wingert (Chuck), a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, who passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on Friday, March 21, 2025.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday March 26, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will take place in the St. Margaret's Cemetery in Spirit Lake. A rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, with a visitation to follow up until 6:00 p.m. at the church. A vigil service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the church on Tuesday. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

A life-long cowboy was born on April 1, 1938, near Wesley, Iowa, to Louis and Helen Wingert. He grew up on a farm near Buffalo Center, where his parents quickly instilled in him and his younger brother, Donald, the responsibilities of farm life. While he thrived in the hard work of farming, Chuck was also a fantastic student, excelling particularly in math. He graduated as salutatorian from Buffalo Center High School before attending Loras College in Dubuque, IA, and later transferring to Iowa State College (now Iowa State University), where he earned a degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in Economics.

While at Loras, Chuck was set up on a blind date with a beautiful young woman, Marilyn Owen, a student at Clarke College. It was love at first sight for the couple, and two years later, they celebrated the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on August 2, 1958, in Grinnell, IA. For their honeymoon, they visited Okoboji, IA, a place that would later become their home.

Chuck and Marilyn started their life together in Boone, IA, where Marilyn taught second grade while Chuck finished college. His career began as a salesperson for the Farmers Cooperative Elevator in Terril, IA, where he eventually became manager. Later, he accepted a position as plant manager for the Big Four soybean plant in Sheldon, IA. However, their true dream was to embrace country living, which they fulfilled in 1978 when they moved to Spirit Lake, IA with their 7 children. There, they owned and operated Silver Spur Ranch, a horse-riding stable, and later, Chuck raised beefalo cattle as a hobby. For 44 years, the couple also ran United Country Heartland Real Estate together until their well-earned retirement.

In 2022, during a routine doctor's appointment, Chuck received news of abnormal test results. True to his nature as a hardworking cowboy, Chuck never hung up his hat or kicked off his boots for good. Playing the role of a cowboy wasn't just something he did — it was part of who he was. Whether raising his family, tending to his beefalo, or simply embracing the grit and freedom of country living, he carried that cowboy spirit with pride. Even as he faced his illness, he did so with quiet strength, never letting it take away from the identity he had built. In his final days, surrounded by the love of his family and the comfort of home, he held on to the values that had shaped his life until he peacefully entered eternal rest in Blessed Mother Mary's arms.

Chuck was a devout Catholic who constantly prayed that he was being a great example and faith leader to his wife, kids, and grandkids. He cared, loved, and wanted the best for everyone he met, especially those closest to him. We

know that Chuck is enjoying his "Family Reunion in Heaven" with his parents, his oldest son Tom, and all of his other relatives and friends. Thank you Chuck for loving all of us, and we know you will continue to pray for all of your relatives and friends who are still here on Earth. We will miss you dearly, but you have earned your "Heavenly Reward." Until we are united again one day... we will see you when we see you.

He is survived by his wife: Marilyn Wingert (Owen) of Spirit Lake, IA; 6 children: Jim Wingert (Rhonda) of Rugby, ND; Dan Wingert (Pam) of Spirit Lake, IA; Jon Wingert and fiancée Laurie of Estherville, IA; Joe Wingert (Brenda) of Lakefield, MN; Sam Wingert and special friend Beth of Spirit Lake, IA; and Patricia Wingert-Steffens of Spirit Lake, IA; 17 grandchildren; many step-grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother Donald Wingert of Spirit Lake, IA. He was preceded in death by: his father Louis in 1972; his mother Helen in 2010; and son Tom in 1993.

Previous Events

Rosary

MAR 25. 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Visitation

MAR 25. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Vigil Service

MAR 25. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Mass of Christian Burial

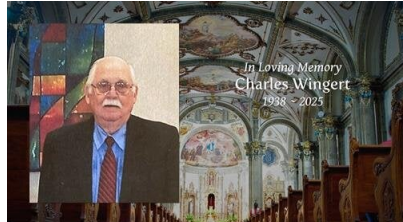
MAR **26**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Wingert*



Robinson Funeral Home - March 25, 2025 at 01:11 PM

DF

“ *Diego F. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Charles Wingert.*



Diego F. - June 10, 2025 at 11:43 PM

JJ

“ *I loved Charles. He was a delight and inspiration to us all. Sometimes, when I sit alone in the cool twilight, staring up at the innumerable stars, I hear a whisper on the wind, as if Charles himself is consoling me.*

Jimmy Jones - June 10, 2025 at 11:34 PM

KS

“ *Thinking of you.*



Kate Shaw - April 15, 2025 at 09:56 PM

FB

“ *Frankie Bailey lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert*



Frankie Bailey - April 08, 2025 at 04:05 PM

TM

“ *Chuck was a rural neighbor. We enjoyed our chats, Dean loved to talk "realty" . We remember him fondly.
Dean and Thelma Madagan*



Thelma Madagan - March 26, 2025 at 01:40 PM

CR

“ *Dan and Pam, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you with precious memories.*

Charlene Radcliffe - March 25, 2025 at 09:13 PM

JW

“ Our sympathies to the Wingert family. We are so sorry for your loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. A life well lived. May his memory be a blessing to each of you. May God’s presence be with you and comfort you with His peace.
(Friends of Joe, Brenda & boys)

Jim and Linda Westensee - March 25, 2025 at 12:43 PM

RH

“ Raymond Hill lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert



Raymond Hill - March 25, 2025 at 01:00 AM

DB

“ Our Deepest sympathy to Marilyn and Chucks entire family. I spent many years with the family including his mother Helen, farming the family farm. We shared many great visits, the fun times picking rock. Working on things together. Lots of laughs also. Chuck will be greatly missed. Was a wonderful friend.
Duane Boehm and Annette

Duane Boehm - March 24, 2025 at 11:47 PM

JS

“ Jeff And Andrea Schwarck lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert



Jeff and Andrea Schwarck - March 24, 2025 at 10:27 PM

BE

“ *Bob And Mary Emgarten lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert*



Bob and Mary Emgarten - March 24, 2025 at 07:13 PM

PM

“ *Marilyn and Family, So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Will remember Chuck in my next enrollment for Masses at the St. Benedict's Abbey in Benet Lake, Wisc. Patty (Jerry) McGuire*

Patty McGuire - March 24, 2025 at 05:25 PM

RF

“ *Riley and Teri Fairchild purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Charles Wingert.*



Riley and Teri Fairchild - March 24, 2025 at 04:51 PM

RD

“ *Sorry for the loss to the whole Wingert family. He was always had such a lovely smile on his face at church. He was always looking after Marilyn too. His faith to his church and family are so admirable. May he be enjoying peace in heaven now that all his earthly work in done. Prayers to you all.*



Rosemary and Mike Davis - March 24, 2025 at 12:57 PM

GB

“ Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert



Greg & Dee Baloun - March 24, 2025 at 11:06 AM

MD

“ Mark And Shari Dykema lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert



Mark and Shari Dykema - March 24, 2025 at 10:33 AM

EL

“ Eileen Lamer lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert



Eileen Lamer - March 24, 2025 at 10:22 AM

RB

“ Will miss you forever Grandpa!



Richelle Blockson-Wingert - March 24, 2025 at 10:03 AM

CL

“ *Connie Lange lit a candle in memory of Charles Wingert*



Connie Lange - March 24, 2025 at 08:27 AM

CT

“ *We sure will miss you, Grandpa Chuck*



Cynthia Topel - March 23, 2025 at 10:34 PM

BS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Benedict Steffens - March 23, 2025 at 08:42 PM

BS

“ Grandpa was truly one-of-a-kind. He was the most honest, hardworking, true-to-his-faith, and authentic people I knew. If you were in his presence, it felt like there was always a lesson or trait to learn from him... or even a nugget of his wisdom.

I often replay memories of fishing, camping, and working on the farm — times filled with adventure, hard work, and the thrill of the outdoors. No matter the situation, even when his patience was tested, he remained steady and calm, never wavering from the values that defined him. Above all, Grandpa was always in pursuit of the Lord, not just in words but in the way he lived each day. His devotion to the Catholic faith left a profound impact on my life, shaping the way I see the world and my place in it.

I will forever cherish the moments I spent with him — the lessons he taught, the love he shared, and the quiet strength he carried. His legacy is one I will strive to honor in my own life, and though he is no longer here, his presence will always be felt in the lessons, the faith, and the love he left behind.

Benedict Steffens - March 23, 2025 at 08:41 PM

PW

“ Miss you ❤️ dad... your only daughter 🙏🌻😊
Patty



Patricia Wingert-Steffens - March 23, 2025 at 01:55 PM

ZS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Zach Steffens - March 23, 2025 at 11:38 AM

R(

“ You will be forever missed, Grandpa! ❤️



Rachel Simpson (Wingert) - March 23, 2025 at 12:03 AM

PW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Patricia Wingert-Steffens - March 22, 2025 at 10:29 PM

KS

What a beautiful couple. Chuck will be greatly missed. Well done good and faithful servant. Our love and prayers. Kate and Bob Shaw

Kate Shaw - March 23, 2025 at 08:36 PM

KS

*We will meet you at heaven 's. Card table..
The Shaws*

Kate Shaw - March 23, 2025 at 08:39 PM

PW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Patricia Wingert-Steffens - March 22, 2025 at 10:20 PM