



GEORGE JOSEPH HENDEL

May 19, 1928 - December 28, 2017

George Joseph Hendel passed away on December 28, 2017. George was born May 19, 1928 at the Hendel Farm, Caledonia, MN, the oldest child of George J. and Hilda (Thill) Hendel.

George attended elementary school in a one room schoolhouse located directly across the road from his farm. He graduated from Loretto High School in 1945. Following high school, George was a life long farmer.

In 1958, he married Mary Jane Huesmann and together they raised four children.

George loved history and sharing stories. His interest in history encompassed family, Houston County, Minnesota and the Civil War. While never wanting to be far from home, he always kept informed of national and global events. George served nine years on the Caledonia Area School Board, was a mediator for in-crisis farmers in the 1980s and a Rotarian.

He was a kind and gentle man who loved nothing better than a gathering of family and friends around the kitchen table for a lively conversation.

With the exception of his Army service during the Korean War, George lived his entire life on the family farm with Brown Swiss cattle in the barn and his much beloved cats at the back door.

George was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Harold, sister, Grace, and daughter, Greta Ingvalson.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Jane. Children: Katy (Dewayne) Ullsperger, Minnetonka, MN, Karl Hendel and Matt (Pam) Hendel of Caledonia, and Son-In-Law: Don (Sherry) Ingvalson of Caledonia. Grandchildren: Eric (Julia), Jessie (Charlie), Devin, Hannah, Lauren, Sydney and Callan.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 am on Tuesday, January 2nd, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Caledonia. Father Matt Fasnacht will officiate and private burial will occur on Wednesday in Calvary Cemetery, Caledonia. Visitation will be from 9:30-10:50 am Tuesday morning before the service at St. Mary's Holy Family Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Houston County Historical Society, Caledonia FFA, or the Caledonia Library.