

The Dash by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own—the cars, the house, the cash... What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? Because you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash... would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?



Honoured to serve the family of Raymond Thielen
To send a condolence, please visit our website at
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Lovingly Remembered

Raymond Thielen

July 9, 1929 — October 2, 2019

Prayer Service

St. Peter's Catholic Church
301 Main Street NW | Milk River, AB
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

Officiant - Father Salvador Ahumada

Congregational Hymns (led by Janice Wilson and St. Peter's Choir)

Only in God, #182

Prayer of St. Francis, #199

Memorial Mass

St. Peter's Catholic Church
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.

Celebrant - Father Salvador Ahumada

Congregational Hymns (led by Janice Wilson and St. Peter's Choir)

On Eagle's Wings, #178

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Be Not Afraid, #32

Shine Jesus, Shine

Readings

First - *Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11* read by Whitney Balog

Second - *Revelation 14* read by Savannah Trump

Prayers of the Faithful read by Marie Losey

Gospel according to John, read by Father Salvador Ahumada

Tributes to Ray's Life

Family - Will Balog

Grandchildren - Meagan Schellenberg

Friends - Rod Sauter

Honourary Pallbearers - All of Ray's grandchildren

Honour Guard - Knights of Columbus

Reception

Following the Memorial Mass, family and friends are invited to further share this day at the Milk River Civic Centre (321 - 3 Avenue NE) for a time of fellowship and refreshments

Raymond "Skinny" Thielen, beloved husband of Ann Thielen, passed away at the Milk River Health Centre on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the age of 90 years.

Besides his loving wife Ann, Ray is survived by his three daughters: Peggy (Keith) Losey, Teri (Greg) Trump and Lisa (William) Balog; eleven grandchildren, Meagan (Ryan) Schellenberg, Marie Losey (Scott Hacker), Melanie (Kevin) Rasmussen, Brett (Vicki) Losey, Cole (Ashlyn) Balog, Mitchell (Jillian) Losey, Whitney Balog (Alexi Kubeczak), Blair Balog, Shane Trump (Jen Jumali), Savannah Trump (Sean Ward) and Logan Trump (Gia Beaver-Crone); and eleven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his baby sister Gladys Strilchuk, mother-in-law Kathleen "Peggy" Douglas and sisters and brothers-in-law Dorothy "Dot" Thielen, Alan (Emily) Douglas, Melvin (Janice) Douglas, Doreen (Mike) Wollersheim as well as many nieces and nephews.

Ray was predeceased by his parents George and Katie Thielen, siblings Violet, Robert, Roy and Gordon Thielen and father-in-law Roy Douglas.

Ray was born at home in the Allerston farmhouse on July 9, 1929, the third son of George and Katie Thielen. Ray was raised on the farm with his three brothers and two sisters. He started grade one in 1936 at the Melfort School and completed his education at the Masinasin School. Ray was a farmer and farmed with his dad and brothers. For many years, he supplemented his income working for Mike Angyal at Angyal's Electric. In 1958, Ray married Ann Douglas. In '59, '60 and '62, they were blessed with three daughters, Peggy, Teri and Lisa. In 1963, Ray and Ann purchased the Nyle St. Peter farm and moved their family there.

In the early '70's, Ray became the manager of the Border Seed Cleaning Coop and worked there for 25 years. After retirement in October of 1999, Ray and Ann sold the farm and moved to town where they have resided until Ray's passing.

You can let go now, Daddy