



Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser

October 23, 1929 - January 12, 2025

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Cold Spring, MN, to celebrate the life of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser, age 95. Norb passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at Paynesville Hospital. He will be laid to rest in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Thursday, at the Wenner Funeral Home in Cold Spring, MN.

Born on October 23, 1929, Norb made a remarkable entrance into the world at home, weighing an impressive 13 pounds. He grew up in Cold Spring, MN, the second of six children in a family whose trials forged his steadfast resilience and boundless determination—qualities that defined his journey through life.

After graduating high school, Norb served his country with honor in the Army. His time in service showcased his athletic prowess, including playing football on scholarship at St. John's University and for his platoon's team in Pennsylvania. A shoulder injury ended his football career, but his love for the game and the tenacity he embodied endured throughout his life.

At 21, Norb returned to Cold Spring and reunited with Margie, the love of his life. They were married on October 28, 1950, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Richmond, MN, embarking on a remarkable 71-year journey together. Their love story, rooted in devotion and partnership, serves as a lasting testament to their bond. Those who knew Norb and Margie take comfort in envisioning them dancing together once more in heaven.

A true entrepreneur, Norb's work ethic and ingenuity led him to thrive in various business ventures. From running a Massey Ferguson implement dealership to managing Custom Builders construction and pioneering patio homes in Cold Spring, Norb was a visionary whose efforts left a lasting mark on his community.

In 1974, Norb realized a lifelong dream when he and Margie built their home on 120 acres of serene land on the outskirts of Cold Spring. Over the years, the family expanded this property into 160 acres of wooded beauty surrounding a private lake, creating a haven cherished by every generation. The land became the heart of family traditions, especially during the annual FarmFest gathering, where laughter and love echoed across the property. Norb often joined the festivities on his golf cart, sharing in the joy that this extraordinary legacy continues to bring.

Faith and service were the cornerstones of Norb's life. As a devoted member of the Knights of Columbus and a trustee at St. Boniface Catholic Church, his actions were guided by integrity and a commitment to others. His steadfast beliefs shaped not only his own life but also the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Norb's hobbies reflected his adventurous and creative spirit. He took joy in fishing, hunting, gardening, woodworking, and playing cards. Golf was one of his greatest passions, particularly during the winters he and Margie spent in Arizona. A gifted problem-solver with a mechanical mind, Norb applied his ingenuity to every aspect of his life, from his work to his play.

Norb is survived by his children, Susan (Kevin) Barr, Sheri Reiter, Mark Gresser (Christine), and Mary (Dan) Gresser-Burns; his sister, Maggie Annschild; his grandchildren, Angela (Shawn) Cuff, Jacquelyn (Justin) Spears, Jeffrey (Sarah) Reiter, Robyn (Luke) Yohe, Kate Fischer, Mac (Annie) Burns, and Anna Burns; and his great-grandchildren, Dawson, Olivia, Savannah, Caroline, Allisyn, Grace, Bria, Bryce, Makayla, Aurora, Tucker, Louis, Scarlet, Natalie, Charlie, Loretta, and Betty. He is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Margie; his son, Patrick; his siblings, Michael Gresser, Mary Ann

Manuel, Elizabeth (Betty) Adamcik, and Charles Gresser; his son-in-law, Wally Reiter; his grandson, Joshua Barr; and his great-granddaughter, Angel Cuff. Norb's life was a lesson in perseverance, honesty, and faith. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched, the family traditions he nurtured, and the memories created on the land he lovingly built. Though he will be deeply missed, his spirit will continue to inspire and guide generations to come.

Cemetery Details

St. Boniface Parish Cemetery

Cold Spring, MN 56320

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Wenner Funeral Home - Cold Spring
600 Red River Ave. So.
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Mass

JAN 16. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church
501 Main Street
Cold Spring, MN 56320

Tribute Wall

ME

“ Although I worked for Norb 45 to 50 years ago (at ages 16 through 21), Norb's affected me profoundly then and ever since.

Thank you, Norb, for being a respected virtuous leader, an amazing entrepreneur, a teacher, and my mentor.

Thank you for encouraging me to go to college, specifically advising me to earn a degree in Accounting and become a CPA. Your advice was especially surprising and appreciated since I hadn't planned for anything beyond my high school education.

Not only did Norb serve as career counselor for me, he also encouraged two other Gresser Implement partsman/mechanic/salesman employees to become CPA's. One small town farm implement business produced three CPA's, all of whom went on to enjoy prosperous business careers. This is a truly remarkable reflection of Norb's impact on teenage employees.

There's more to share. I rented an apartment from Norb for 5 years. At times when I presented him my rent check, he said to just keep my money. When Norb took me on equipment sales calls, he told me it is important to first get to know customers as people before ever attempting to sell them something. Doing so takes time. But his view on establishing trust was really something bigger. Customers became lasting friends. And Norb was honest. His example of honesty created a business environment staffed with honest, devoted, hard working employees...character traits that have surely stuck with all who were fortunate to work for Norb.

As an important aside, I've been told a person's legacy consists of two key things: 1. What people think of you after you're gone, and 2. How long they'll think that of you.

That said, Norb Gresser's legacy of virtue, care for others, and desire to make a positive difference will be long remembered. Our world would indeed be a far better place if more were like him.

May God richly bless you and your family, Norb. You'll be missed but never forgotten.

*Mark Eisenschenk
North Oaks, MN*

Mark Eisenschenk - January 17, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.

January 16, 2025 at 12:06 PM

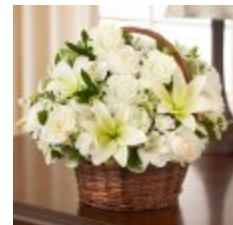


“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.

January 16, 2025 at 12:05 PM



“ Nici S. purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.



Nici S. - January 15, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ Nici S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.

Nici S. - January 15, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ *Red Rose And Lily Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.*



January 14, 2025 at 08:52 PM



“ *Much Love from Ruth Kirscht & Family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Norbert (Norb) Arthur Gresser.*



Much Love from Ruth Kirscht & Family - January 14, 2025 at 05:58 PM