

John Eugene Thalken

July 16, 1929 – April 1, 2016

Funeral services were held for John Eugene Thalken, 86, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday Apr. 5, at Wheatland Bible Church in Wheatland, with Pastor Jason Iacovetto officiating. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery.

John was born on Tuesday, July 16, 1929 to John Bernard and Lydia Marie (Doellefeld) Thalken in Laramie. He was the first grandchild on both sides and was doted on by his grandparents and many aunts and uncles. When he was 12 years old, his family moved to Seminoe Dam where he attended two years of school in a country schoolhouse. Seminoe was one of his favorite places, exploring the mountains and lake with his dog Rover. When he started high school, he moved back to Laramie and lived with his grandparents. He started his working life at 14 in Laramie, delivering telegrams for Western Union, riding his bike through snow, sleet, wind and cinders from the train yard. He moved to Guernsey with his family in 1945.

On his first day of 11th grade, he met the love of his life, Phyllis Weber. After his graduation from High School in May of 1947, he attended the University of Wyoming where he studied agriculture for on and a-half years. He got a job with Burlington Northern Railroad that brought him back to Guernsey and his sweetheart. In the spring of 1949, he began working for Phyllis' parents on their farm. They were married on July 3, 1949 when he was 19 and she was 17-years-old. They have enjoyed a happy and full marriage for nearly 67 years.

John and Phyllis took over the family farm after her father passed away and her brother moved away. John loved working the land as well as caring for his beloved cows. He was a loving father to his two children, John Phillip (1951) and Kathryn Ann (1954) and a devoted grandpa to his 9 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. He loved hunting, fishing, and backpacking all over the state with family and close friends. He was an active member of Wheatland Bible Church and his community and has inspired countless people over



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the years. He will be remembered for his many stories and songs, his ready sense of humor, and his twinkling eyes, and contagious laughter. His love of growing things demonstrated his work ethic that cannot be rivaled as evidenced by his weed free garden that he tended after retiring from full time farming and giving the reigns to his daughter and son-in-law. He was wholly devoted to the Lord and his love for the Savior was evident in all he did. He loved his wife wholeheartedly and labored to provide and care for her all of his days.

He died peacefully at the Douglas Care Center in Douglas on Friday, Apr. 1, surrounded by family after complications of a stroke suffered on Feb. 22.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; father, John, on Feb. 14, 1999; mother, Lydia, on Oct. 21, 2002; and his baby sister, Patricia Ann Thalken.

He was survived by his wife, Phyllis, of Wheatland; his sister, Barbara A. (Paul) Eastridge, of Casper; his two children, John P. (Twyla) Thalken of Douglas and Kathryn A. (John) Watson, of Wheatland; his 9 grandchildren, Christy (Pace) VanDeburg, Becky (Zach) Byram, Heide (Justin) Limmer, Lisa Thalken, Dustin (Jennifer) Boyson, Reagan (Justin) Scott, Angie (Nate) Bennett, Debbie (Sean) Ennist, and Tom (Joanna) Watson; and 27 great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Serving as pallbearers were Tom Watson, Pace VanDeburg, Justin Limmer, Sean Ennist, Nate Bennett, and Zach Byram.

Serving as honorary pallbearers were Dustin Boyson, Justin Scott, and all of his great grandchildren.

A memorial to the Wheatland Bible Church, P.O. Box 685, Wheatland, WY 82201 or to the Antelope Gap Fire District in care of Toni Ann Cochran, 962 Antelope Gap Road, Wheatland, WY 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

The Gorman Funeral Homes – Platte Chapel of Wheatland was in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.gormanfh.com.