



Wayne Wilson Ditmer

APR 21, 1932 - FEB 5, 2015



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Wayne Wilson Ditmer of Fort Myers, Florida passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 5, 2015 following some health challenges. He was 82 years old. Wayne was born on April 21, 1932 in Oakland, California, the son of Verna (Wilson) and Clifford E. Ditmer. He had a colorful childhood, growing up on Alcatraz where his father was a guard. Wayne claimed to be buddies with Al Capone, chatting with the notorious gangster through the prison fence near the guard's family apartments while Capone tended to the prison gardens. Wayne spent his teenage years in Velva, North Dakota where his interest in agriculture began, joining the Future Farmers of America (FFA) in high school. Wayne graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS and MS in Agricultural Education. After college he joined the U.S. Army, spending most of his duty in Fairbanks Alaska. After the Army he married his college sweetheart, Beverly Akason, and moved to Mott, North Dakota where they both secured teaching jobs at Mott Lincoln High School. Wayne taught Vocational Agriculture in Mott for 28 years. Wayne's involvement with the FFA continued as he shepherded hundreds of Future Farmers through the organization. In 1985 Wayne moved to Thief Rivers Falls, Minnesota where he taught post secondary and adult farm management until his retirement in 1994. Wayne contributed time to many community groups including service as treasurer of several organizations and also served on the board of Directors of the North Dakota Education Association. He was active in the Masons and Eastern Star, and also founded an irrigation cooperative which is still serving users in Mott. Wayne was a prolific traveller, visiting over 50 countries and all 50 states. He was also an avid photographer as well as accomplished gardener. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Beverly Akason Ditmer; his 3 sons, Steven (Carol) Ditmer of Denver, CO, Michael (Lisa Proechel) Ditmer of St. Paul, MN and Gary (Etsuko) Ditmer of Sendai, Japan. He also leaves behind his sister Edith Dacks of Fargo, ND, 3 grandchildren and 5 great



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grandchildren. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. Thursday, February 12 at the Estero Room, Cypress Cove located at: 10200 Cypress Cove Drive, Fort Myers, Florida, 33908. Placement services with Military Honors will be 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Field of Honor at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home is serving the family. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.fortmyersmemorial.com. Memorial donations may be made to the North Dakota Future Farmers of America Foundation: ND FFA Foundation PO Box 6022. Bismarck, ND 58506-6022. www.ndffaoundation.com. A special thank you to the staff of The Lodge at Health Park at Cypress Cove.



Tribute Wall

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RM

Roger J Mayer posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Wayne Wilson Ditmer

March 18 at 8:04 PM

RM

Roger J. Mayer posted:

As one of Wayne Dittmer's former students, I have many fond memories of classes he taught and how he visited my parents' farm to check up on my FFA project. May God bless you and your family. Rest in peace Wayne!

March 16 at 7:45 PM

GB

Gary L. Berreth posted:

Dear Bev and Family, Wayne was one of those teachers that did a lot to influence his students on becoming better people and encouraging them to always look to the future. He was always there if you wanted advice or needed some encouragement. His footprint on the lives of many Mottinites will be forever remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Gary and Pam Berreth

March 16 at 9:52 AM

LS

Lavonn Boehm Steiner posted:

Dear Bev & Family, Thank you both for your influence in teaching at Mott Lincoln High School. You both brought so much to the students and the Mott community. My sympathy to you and your family on your loss. His memory lives on. I celebrate the difference you made and the love you shared. LaVonn Boehm Steiner

March 16 at 8:55 AM

HH

Harvey J. Hirning posted:

Dear Bev and Family, I am very sorry to hear that Wayne passed away. I first got to know your family when you moved to Mott. Wayne got me involved in FFA and that experience has really helped me in my education career. He got me to places that I never even dreamed of like the National FFA convention in Kansas City. I don't know how many trips we made to the Valley City Winter Show, the State FFA conventions in Fargo including the one with the 1957 tornado and the state Dairy show. Harvey J. Hirning Professor Emeritus NDSU

March 15 at 3:20 PM



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ZS

Zan Severson posted:

Dearr Bev and family, I am so sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. My condolences to you and your sons. Wayne spent the weekends at my home in Valley City during the Winter Show when we lived there. I enjoyed his visit.Zan Erdman Severson

March 14 at 6:29 PM

DH

David Hansen posted:

My condolences to Wayne's family. I have fond memories of Wayne through my years in Mott. From mowing his lawn for a couple of summers to being a student in wood shop, electricity and welding and engines classes. He taught me a lot and made it fun. In many ways his classes were my best times at Mott Lincoln High. David Hansen

March 13 at 4:38 AM

SJ

Sherilyn Julson posted:

Dear BEV & family,My thoughts & prayers will be with you & your family. Love & prayers,Sherilyn Julson

February 14 at 7:42 AM

SH

Shirley Halvorson posted:

I have fond memories of Wayne and his family from his time of living in Mott. My condolences to you Bev. You and Wayne raised three wonderful sons. I was fortunate to teach them in 3rd grade. Shirley Halvorson

February 14 at 7:15 AM

HB

Henry Bromelkamp posted:

I remember Wayne as a gracious guest who loved and cared for his kids without question. Peace to him and the whole family. Carry him in your hearts.

February 13 at 5:27 PM



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DV

Doug Vannurden posted:

My sympathy to the Wayne Ditmer Family on your loss. As an Agriculture Instructor in Southwest North Dakota, I got to know this man over a period of 10 years when I was a beginning teacher at Beach. Together we were a part of District 8 – one of the strongest FFA Districts in North Dakota – with excellent programs, competitive teams in many contest areas – in particular in Crops Judging – and lots of outstanding students. We also had some very strong-willed ag teachers who liked to win. Wayne seemed to always be on the list to tabulate the results of contests, which in the early days of my tenure were done longhand on tabulation spread sheets with adding done with adding machines. My memory of Wayne is that he could add long columns faster in his head than it would take to enter the numbers in the adding machine, and he would do it right over your shoulder if you let him. Wayne left for Minnesota and part two of his career a year before I moved to the State office in Bismarck. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Doug Vannurden

February 11 at 8:44 AM

BS

Beth Bakke Stenehjem posted:

Dear Family, I met Wayne when he came to the 75th anniversary party for the ND FFA. What a wonderful man who gave so many years to agriculture education. Teaching can be a thankless job, and I am just so glad that Wayne was able to give Mott students so much time and talent. Beth Bakke Stenehjem

February 11 at 8:05 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Wayne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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