



Richard "Dick" E. Thelander

August 28, 1931 - October 26, 2025

Richard "Dick" Thelander, 94 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Sunday, October 26, 2025 at the VA Hospital in St. Cloud, MN. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, November 7, 2025 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Little Falls, MN with Rev. Kari Pancoast officiating. Burial will take place in Darling Cemetery in Little Falls, MN. Visitation will be held from 4-7 P.M on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN and from 12-1 P.M. on Friday, November 7, 2025 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Little Falls, MN. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorials be given to your choice in remembrance of Dick; Bethel Lutheran Church of Little Falls, The Darling Church Memorial Incorporation formed in 2018 after the Darling church was burned down by arson, or the Darling Cemetery Association, which formed in the 1950s. Caring for Dick and his family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

Dick Thelander was born August 28, 1931, during 'threshing time' to the late Eric and Carrie Thelander of Darling Township. Dick enjoyed growing up on his parents' farm, tilling his first field as a boy driving a team of horses. The family attended the Darling Church, later joining Bethel Lutheran of Little Falls, where Dick remained a member the rest of his life. He attended District 35 through the 8th grade. He missed a few days of High School before deciding to attend, graduating from Little Falls High School in 1950. Dick served the US Army from 1953 to 1955 stationed in Georgia. Dick met Eva Oslund while

working for Little Falls Creamery hauling milk. They married in Swanville on October 28, 1956. They farmed and raised a family on the Thelander 1893 homestead. On their dairy and beef farm, Dick enjoyed working the fields, making improvements with contour field strips and terraces to prevent soil runoff. He was named the outstanding farmer of the year by the soil and water district in 1964. In the community, Dick served on the church council, Morrison County FHA board, 18 years on the Randall Co-op Creamery board and was a member of the Greater Minnesota Two-Cylinder club for 30 plus years. He donated blood often in the 60's and 70's, dropping work in the field or barn to rush to St. Gabriel's Hospital when the call came in. Dick especially enjoyed caring for the Darling Cemetery, having inherited its records down from his father, Eric and grandfather, John Thelander. He loved all the people he met, whether they were bereaved needing a gravesite or enjoying a genealogy search. Dick worked with neighbors and friends who gathered to personally shovel out each grave in the era before hiring heavy equipment. At 43 years of marriage, Eva passed from cancer in 1999, the same year Dick had a serious tractor accident. (Not the only accident he had; twice losing fingers and one major car accident in 1977) Dick sold the homestead part of the farm to his son David, retired from cattle – but not fields! Once back on his feet, he (and his tractors) moved back on the farm he was raised on, where he built a workshop. In 2002, Dick married Annice Beseman. The two enjoyed 16 years together doing field work and traveling. As a hobby, Dick, with help from a variety of people, restored two horse-drawn wagons, a 'belly dump wagon' used for road building that had belonged to his father, and a coal wagon; he took both through several local parades.

Dick is survived by two daughters, Dianne (Joe) Staricka of Swanville, and Susan Thelander of Little Falls; adult grandchildren, Jessica Saricka, Eric Staricka, Jordan Thelander, Nathan Thelander and Erin Lonneman; one great-granddaughter; one brother, Lyle (Bonnie) Thelander of Indiana, and a stepdaughter, Kathy (Wayne) Hartwig of Swanville.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife, Eva; two infant children, Brian and Linda, in the 1960s; sons, David Thelander in 2009 and Alan Thelander in 2021. His 2nd Wife, Annice in 2018; and brother, Dale (Cris) Thelander of Kansas.

Cemetery Details

Darling Cemetery

10815 190th Street
Little Falls, MN 56345

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Little Falls Chapel
214 2nd St SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-5242
info@shelleyfuneralchapels.com

Visitation

NOV 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Lutheran Church - Little Falls
901 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN

Funeral Service

NOV 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Lutheran Church
901 Broadway W
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-2316

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 05, 2025 at 02:47 PM

JW

“ *Looks like a great man in many ways. My condolences to his family and everyone else who knew and loved Dick.*



Jim Wright - November 07, 2025 at 06:37 PM

KC

“ *Kathleen and Alger Ciabattoni and Jeffrey Bigalke send love and condolences.*

Kathleen Ciabattoni - November 05, 2025 at 09:54 PM

PF

“ *Pete & Fran Thelander & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander.*



Pete & Fran Thelander & Family - November 05, 2025 at 04:06 PM



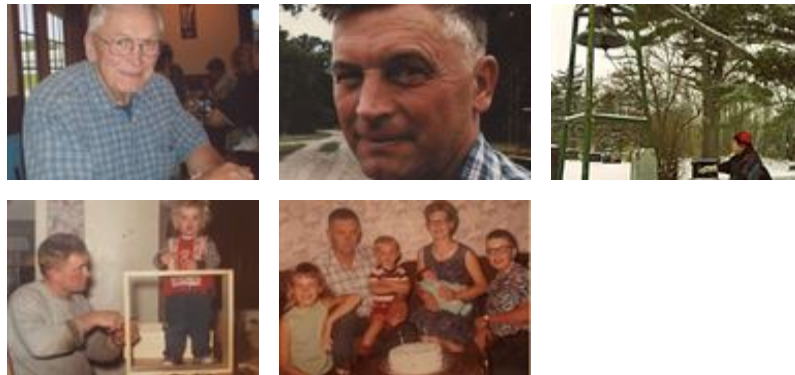
“ 5 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 05, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 05, 2025 at 12:22 PM



“ Steve Wenzel lit a candle in memory of *Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Steve Wenzel - November 02, 2025 at 07:22 PM

TF

“ *The Perez Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander.*



The Perez Family - October 31, 2025 at 04:06 PM

RO

“ *Dick taught me a lot while at Bethel Lutheran - great guide & mentor! Rest in peace my friend!*



Rosie - October 31, 2025 at 01:56 PM

HJ

“ *Heidi Eystad And Michael Jones lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Heidi Eystad and Michael Jones - October 29, 2025 at 01:35 PM

HJ

So many great memories! Surely he and Dad are talking Heaven into quiet time!

Heidi Eystad and Michael Jones - October 29, 2025 at 01:36 PM

CN

“ Dick was a great neighbor all my life, Dad to my longtime horseback rider friend Dianne. Countless hours riding horse in neighborhood, lots of them stopping talking with Dick on his tractor.



cindy Nelson - October 29, 2025 at 09:37 AM

BS

“ So sorry to hear. He was such a nice man. Showed my kids and grandkids around the family farm. My mom was Bettie Thelander, Hilding's daughter

Becki Shriner - October 29, 2025 at 09:13 AM

WR

“ Your dad was such a wonderful kind and caring person and friend. He would be so proud of his two daughters on how they cared and loved him. Sympathies to the family, and he can now rest in peace.

Wendy and Dave Rutz - October 28, 2025 at 11:16 PM

CK

“ Cody And Toni Kathrein lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander



Cody and Toni Kathrein - October 28, 2025 at 07:50 PM

JH

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Thelander family.*



Jerry & Julie Hollermann - October 28, 2025 at 04:10 PM

VB

“ *Virgil & Babe Brisk lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Virgil & Babe Brisk - October 28, 2025 at 01:00 PM

VB

“ *Virgil & Babe Brisk lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Virgil & Babe Brisk - October 28, 2025 at 12:59 PM

RL

“ *Ron & Lani Larson lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Ron & Lani Larson - October 28, 2025 at 11:56 AM

DP

“ *Darlene Palm lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Darlene Palm - October 28, 2025 at 10:46 AM

RL

“ *Roger Lashinski lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Roger Lashinski - October 28, 2025 at 10:37 AM

SK

“ *Steve & Judy Kathrein lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



steve & Judy Kathrein - October 28, 2025 at 09:38 AM

RG

“ *Renée And John Gustafson lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Renée and John Gustafson - October 27, 2025 at 09:00 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of
Richard "Dick" E. Thelander*



Sandy Nelson - October 27, 2025 at 05:44 PM