



## Robert Bettger

May 16, 1923 - October 2, 2019

Robert Bettger was born the second of four children to John Bettger and Lydia Bitterman on May 16, 1923. He passed away October 2, 2019 at the Fairview Manor in Fairmont, Nebraska at age 96 years 4 months and 17 days.

Robert was born and raised on farms around the Fairmont area and attended rural school District 18. As a child during the Dust Bowl years, Robert had interesting stories of tending livestock in the road ditches with his siblings as drought was ravaging the land. Robert graduated from Fairmont High School in 1941. He spent several years farming with his dad, working at Harrington's and helping neighbor farmers.

Robert was drafted into the armed services and chose the Navy. He took basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois in 1945. He was then assigned to the receiving center in Shoemaker, California for further training. His first assignment was to a small aircraft carrier that made special runs from San Francisco to Hawaii. His duty was in the kitchen and he enjoyed sitting on deck and peeling potatoes. His last assignment was to a destroyer escort when the war ended. He was honorably discharged on March 7, 1946.

On May 26, 1946, Robert married Lila Mae Lovegrove at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. On the farm northwest of Fairmont, three sons were born. For several years he did custom combining following the wheat

harvest from Texas and Oklahoma, through Nebraska and into the Dakotas. In 1971 Robert and Lila built a new home in Fairmont. The boys were starting to come back and farm so Robert and Lila would spend some time in the winter traveling. They would visit Robert's brother and sister who lived in Arizona and California. Robert and Lila enjoyed square dancing and spent many weekend evenings traveling the Fairmont-York area with their square dance club. Robert helped the kids with gardening activities which included canning corn and picking apples and making apple juice. Later in life Robert took up golf and enjoyed his time playing with friends from Fairmont and Geneva. Robert also spent some afternoons with his great grand kids fishing in one of his farm ponds. He had a wood working shop and loved making birdhouses. Robert and Lila always liked going for rides to see what activities were going on in the farm fields.

Robert was a member of the United Methodist Church, a lifetime member of the American Legion, past member of the Odd Fellows, Fairmont school board, city council, and other boards.

Robert's last few years at Fairview Manor he enjoyed having a garden to occupy his time. Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Lydia Bettger, wife Lila, son William D., brothers John and Gilbert, and sister Dorothy.

He is survived by son Robert E. and wife Sandra of Fairmont, daughter-in-law Susan L. of Geneva, son Paul E. and wife Carol of Fairmont, sister-in-law Jean Lovegrove, sister-in-law Shirley Lovegrove, 8 grandchildren, 16 great grand children, and numerous relatives and friends.

A Funeral Service for Robert was held on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 10:30

a.m. at the Fairmont Community Church in Fairmont, Nebraska. Pastor Seungli You officiated the service. Shirley Milton provided the prelude and postlude music and also accompanied the congregation in the singing of "The Old Rugged Cross." The recorded selection "You'll Be There" was also played during the service.

Pallbearers for the service included Jeff Bettger, Matt Bettger, Dean Acheson, Wade Lancaster, Scott Bettger, Eric Bettger, Darin Erstad, and Brent Parsons.

Interment was held in the Fairmont Public Cemetery with flag presentation performed by the Fairmont American Legion Lt. Forbes Post 21.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com).

Memorials are suggested to the Fairmont Community Church or the Fairview Manor in Fairmont.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairmont Public Cemetery

Fairmont, NE

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

OCT 6. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

OCT 6. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

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OCT 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

Fairmont Community Church  
705 F Street  
Fairmont, NE 68354

# Tribute Wall



“ 37 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - October 07, 2019 at 01:42 PM

TB

“ I am Tommy Boyer-Kendrick, grandson of Robert's brother John Bettger. Having been raised in Fairmont during my childhood days, I always remember Robert as the kindest, most loving and gentle man. I don't believe he ever had anything but love and generosity toward his family and community. He was always the example of how to carry yourself as a man, with integrity and compassion. I remember driving out to the field with him one day just so he could give me the BEST super sweet corn ever made! I was quite the ornery little boy, and yet Robert always had patience and understanding. I would sometimes just walk over to their home and ask to play pool in the basement. And as always, Robert and Lila would welcome me in, provide some snacks, and show me the same love that they did every person that came into their home. Robert was a role model, an example of what a MAN can and should be. Still today I try to emulate those characteristics in how I parent my own children. Patience, love and kindness.....that is Robert Bettger.

Tommy Boyer-Kendrick - October 07, 2019 at 11:43 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Bettger.*



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October 04, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ *I am the niece of Gib Bettger and wanted to share how wonderful my memories of Bob are. I recall Bob bringing us bags of corn and we would sit on the driveway for hours talking and laughing. He was such a sweet nice man. My heart goes out to your family.*  
*Kim (Howard) Hamik*

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**Kim Howard Hamik** - October 04, 2019 at 08:51 AM



“ *Our sincere sympathy. Bob Thomsen and Bev*



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**Beverly mohlman** - October 03, 2019 at 07:25 PM



“ *Such a wonderful man--what a great life! I enjoyed visiting with Bob each time I was at Fairview. My parents and I loved to play cards with Bob, and he gifted us with tomatoes for the past two summers. He will be missed! Our sympathy to his family.* *Mary Schropfer*

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**Mary Schropfer** - October 03, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Bettger.* ”



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October 03, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ *Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Robert Bettger* ”



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**Vicki Allgood** - October 03, 2019 at 09:20 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Bettger family. Clarice Machal and family* ”

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**Clarice Machal Titus** - October 03, 2019 at 09:13 AM



“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Robert Bettger* ”



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**Kent & Rose Theobald** - October 02, 2019 at 05:23 PM