



## Wayne Norton

July 7, 1942 - March 24, 2026

Wayne Norton, 83, of Milton, Iowa passed away on March 24, 2026, at his home. He was born on June 7, 1942, in Washington, Iowa to Milton and Viola Fuhr Norton. Wayne was preceded in death by his wife Sharon Jessen Norton. They were married 56 years and were married at the Trinity Lutheran Church on December 17, 1961.

Wayne was a farmer and worked at Pioneer for 36 years after building the pioneer plant. He retired the second time from Pioneer at age 80. He worked for Van Buren County and drove a school bus for Fox Valley. He was also active with The Gideons International. Wayne was passionate about honoring veterans; he restored a John Deere A tractor and built a wagon (float) that he pulled in many Veterans Day parades, including the Iowa State Fair. He and Sharon started camping at the Iowa State Fair in 1961. He loved watching the people and volunteered for 25 years. He made many friends in the campground community at the fair.

Wayne loved woodworking and crafted many items to honor our military that were auctioned to raise money for veteran charities. Shortly before his death, he made several charcuterie boards as gifts to friends and family.

Wayne enjoyed gospel music and understood it to be more than entertainment, but a testament to his faith. He invested his time, resources,

and prayers in generous support of gospel ministries and their message of redemption and salvation. He organized and hosted the Sharon K. Norton memorial gospel sing for several years and helped with many other gospel sings. This legacy of love and friendship is in the heart of many.

Wayne is survived by his children, Mark (Dee) Norton of Marshalltown, Iowa, Darla (Alan) Hargis of Ottumwa, Iowa; four grandchildren, Rebecca (Drew), Rachel, Mason (Lilly) Kaylie; four great-grandchildren, Alex, Ana, Mavlyn, Maizen; four sisters-in-law, Gwenlyn Foster, Evelyn Wells, Shirley Schmidt, Dorothy Jessen; a very special friend of five years, Linda Kinnamon; 28 wonderful nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents; sister, Phyllis and brother-in-law Mac, and sisters-in-law Elsie Wagler, Martha Blasi, and brothers in law Richard Jessen, Harold Jessen and Ronnie Jessen.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Milton Christian Church with Pastors Kevin Mote and Norman Forman officiating. Burial will be held at the Sunnyside Cemetery in Milton. Visitation will begin at noon on Monday with the family present to greet friends from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Wagler Funeral Home in Bloomfield. Memorials have been established to the Iowa State Fair, The Gideons International, Milton Christian Church, and Good Samaritan Society Hospice – Ottumwa.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunnyside Cemetery

Milton, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 30.** 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
(641) 664-3421  
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation with Family Present

**MAR 30.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
(641) 664-3421  
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

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MAR 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

Milton Christian Church  
301 E. Oak St.  
Milton, IA 52570

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ Uncle Wayne and Aunt Sharon were my introduction to the meaning of true romance. They took me on many dates and as a wide eyed 8-year-old girl I viewed a caring couple with mutual respect, joyous laughter and the look of love in their eyes. Uncle Wayne treated Aunt Sharon as I imagined every girl wanted to be treated. I carry these memories with me always. Everyone should have been as lucky as I to be part of a beautiful love story. Your niece, Cindy

Cindy Alberts - March 31 at 08:38 AM

YF

“ Your Lenihan family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Wayne Norton.



Your Lenihan family - March 29 at 01:23 PM

PI

“ Paula Barnes, Information Volunteer ISF purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Wayne Norton.



Paula Barnes, Information Volunteer ISF - March 29 at 11:37 AM

BJ

“ I really didn't know Wayne that well. But, from the time we discussed wood working projects I knew right away he was a very nice gentleman. My friend Linda introduced me to Wayne. Glad she did! Thank you Linda.  
Rest in peace Wayne.

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**Bryan Johnson** - March 27 at 09:02 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wayne Norton.



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March 27 at 06:11 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne Norton.

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March 27 at 06:11 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Wayne Norton.



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March 26 at 04:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne Norton.

March 26 at 04:20 PM



“ Wayne and Sharon were wonderful people. Wayne's folks, Milton and Viola Norton, were neighbors and friends of my grandparents, Craig and Cloe Price, and my folks, Paul and Evelyn Davis. We all grew up and lived in the same rural neighborhood and spent a lot of time together in the early years. Wayne was a kind and loving person and would do anything for anyone. My heart goes out to Mark and Darla and their families.  
Ronnie & Dana (Davis) Brundies



Dana Davis Brundies - March 25 at 11:50 PM



“ Georgia Stevens lit a candle in memory of Wayne Norton



Georgia Stevens - March 25 at 07:24 PM