



Donald Lee Gripka

August 18, 1940 - September 20, 2025

Donald Lee Gripka, 85, of Pierce City, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2025, on his farm. Born on August 18, 1940, to Mary and Joseph Gripka, Donald was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, and lifelong cattle farmer.

Donald's early years on the family farm shaped the hardworking, determined man he would become. His work ethic, love of the land, and commitment to his family were evident throughout his life. On October 8, 1966, Donald married the love of his life, Margie Gollhofer, and together they built a life full of love, faith, and dedication. Their union was blessed with two children, Janet and her husband Phil, and Brad and his wife Heather.

In addition to his lifelong work as a cattle farmer, Donald proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, where he developed a deep sense of discipline and service to others. After his time in the military, he worked at Wells Aluminum, where he retired in February 2001.

A long-time member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Donald's faith played an important role in his life. His family and friends remember him for his quiet strength, his generosity, and his unwavering love for his community. Donald served on the Pierce City School board for eight years where he also served as president, was a member of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus, was a

member of the Pierce City Road District, and served as a board member of the Pierce City rural fire department. Donald was a man of few words, but his actions spoke volumes. Whether tending to his farm, volunteering his time, or simply offering a helping hand to a neighbor, Donald lived his life with kindness and humility.

Donald is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margie; his children, Janet (Phil) and Brad (Heather); his beloved grandchildren, Andrew (Grace), Katelyn (Drake), Madison, Riley, Hailey, and Sarah; his siblings, Mary Ann, Harold (Carol), Carolyn (Phil), Ken (Dana), and Joe (Vicki); and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and Joseph Gripka and his brother, Frank.

Donald's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all whose lives he touched.

Papa, we'll make you proud!

Rosary will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pierce City, MO on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM with visitation to follow until 8:00 PM. Funeral Mass will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Thursday, September 25, 2025, beginning at 10:30 AM with Father Paul Pudhota and Father Sanoop Thomas officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Pierce City, MO.

Memorials may be made, in Don's memory, to St. Mary's Catholic School in care of Lakin Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Pierce City, MO 65723

Previous Events

Rosary Service

SEP 24. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
200 Front Street
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2827

Visitation

SEP 24. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
200 Front Street
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2827

Funeral Mass

SEP 25. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
200 Front Street
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2827

Tribute Wall

MG

“ Brad, I'm so very sorry for the loss of your father. Prayers for you and your family.

Marilyn Gabriel - September 26, 2025 at 06:24 AM

PG

“ What a great man and a life well lived. I always enjoyed going to visit Don and Margie and Brad and Janet in the summer. Don always seemed like such a stoic and gentle giant, but when he spoke he imparted great wisdom. It's men like him that worked very hard, were very generous with their time and resources and served their country and community throughout their life that have made America what it is. Incredibly thankful to have known Don and to be a part of this great family.

paul gripka - September 25, 2025 at 09:01 AM

M(

“ Don was seven years younger than me and I remember many times I held him as a baby and would sit in our swing in the front yard and swing him to sleep.

Mary Anne Flucke (sister) - September 23, 2025 at 05:04 PM

RH

“ Brad, So sorry for your loss. We are praying for you and your family.

Rowland Harmon - September 23, 2025 at 08:43 AM