

Tony Welder – BS 1961 Pharmacy

Anton "Tony" Paul Welder, 86, passed away on March 18, 2025, in Bismarck, North Dakota. Born on August 26, 1938, in Napoleon, North Dakota, Tony led a life marked by dedication to his family, passion for his profession, and commitment to his community.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:30 PM Monday, March 24, 2025, at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Church in Bismarck. Burial will take place at a later date in St. Philip Nero Cemetery in Napoleon, ND.

Visitation will be held Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Weigel Funeral Home followed by a Rosary/Prayer Service. Please check back for visitation and rosary start times.

Tony pursued higher education at Bismarck Junior College and NDSU School of Pharmacy, a path that led to a distinguished career in pharmacy. His leadership and entrepreneurial spirit were evident as he became the owner of multiple pharmacies in Bismarck and a number of small communities. He was an innovator and was one of the first to introduce naturopathic medicine alternatives that improved the healthcare of many. Tony's contributions to the field were widely recognized, culminating in his role as President of the National Community Pharmacists Association where he advocated for independent pharmacists nationally. His dedication to small business and healthcare earned him the prestigious North Dakota Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Beyond his professional achievements, Tony was an avid NDSU Bison supporter that included making most home football games where he had season tickets for 40 years. He was also passionate about giving back through his time and scholarships to NDSU, University of Mary and Bismarck State College. He was also a long-time parishioner of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck and especially enjoyed participating in the music. In his free time, he had a deep appreciation for hands-on craftsmanship. He found joy in welding, woodworking and photography, creating pieces that reflected both skill and artistry. Staying active was also important to him, and he made working out a regular part of his routine. Tony was preceded in death by his daughter, Jill Marie Welder, his parents, Paul and Theresa Welder, and his sister, Marilyn Neigum. He is survived by his daughters Sara (Jared) Jacobson and Renae Welder, his granddaughter Caroline (Buster) Kern, his sisters Marcie Eggen and Paula Welder, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tony's legacy lives on through his family, his contributions to pharmacy, his dedication to small business advocacy, and the many lives he touched along the way. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew them.