Donald Stuart Quackenbush, son of Winslow and Eda (Schaefer) Quackenbush was born September 12, 1928, the third of eleven children. He was baptized on November 4, 1928 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Chokio, MN. He was raised on a farm just north of Chokio. He attended Chokio High School and graduated in 1946. On November 24, 1951, Don married the love of his life, Pat Wade at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, in Chokio, MN.

A lifelong farmer, he also enjoyed fishing, hunting, and following baseball (especially the Twins). In his retirement years, he became an accomplished framer. He was devoted to his wife, his children, caring for his land, and his community. He loved a good joke - whether he was doing the telling or the listening. He was so very proud of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Don died on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud. He lived to 87 years.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 64 years, Patricia (Pat) (Wade) Quackenbush of Chokio; twelve children: Peggy (Ken) Quackenbush of Rochester, NY, Carol (Doug) Olausen of Twin Lakes, Jim (Amy) Quackenbush of Watertown, SD, Joan (Scott) Bonine of Piedmont, SC, Laurie (Larry) Roehl of Iowa City, IA, Louise (Brian) Koranda of Blue Earth, Dean (Lynn) Quackenbush of Chokio, Kay (Tom) Fox of Oronoco, Bruce (Kris) Quackenbush of Chokio, Eileen (Rick) Johnsen of North Branch, Kristine (Dave) Dodds of St. Louis Park, Tom (LaVonne) Quackenbush of Redwood Falls and foreign exchange student Ole Baek of Denmark; 33 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; siblings: Arlene Veith of St. Paul, Mary Anderson of Olympia, WA, Levida Hulett of Bothell, WA, Dorothy Lawson of Blue Earth, Caroline (Del) Scheldorf of Chokio, Elaine Olsen of Maplewood, Winona (Don) Robnett of Laughlin, NV; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, two infant sons, Peter and John, and three siblings: Harvey Quackenbush, Lois Runion, and Robert Quackenbush.

To send condolences to the family please visit www.pedersenfh.com

CLOSE THE GATE

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard, but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace. The fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life, often a jagged and stoney way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded, and here now is the end of your day.
Your love of God’s soil has passed on to your kin; the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by blessed rain one final time.
You always believed that the good Lord would provide and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down, no more sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven; no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

Nancy Kraayenhof.
Services At:
St. Mary’s Catholic Church ~ Chokio, Minnesota
Monday ~ October 12, 2015 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant:
Father John Paul Knopik

Organist:
Amy Blackwelder

Special Music:
Peggy Quackenbush, Kay Fox
Jim Quackenbush, Amy Quackenbush

Readers:
Tom Quackenbush, Ben Quackenbush
John Quackenbush, Sam Quackenbush

Eucharistic Minister:
Dean Quackenbush

Pallbearers:
All Of Don’s Grandsons

Honorary Pallbearers:
All Of Don’s Granddaughters

Interment:
St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery
Chokio, Minnesota

Pedersen Funeral Home - Morris, Minnesota
www.pedersenfh.com