

# Mike Slag

## Memorial Endowment

*Loved life, loved living off the land*



*A farmer first, a soldier second,  
but always a friend ... Mike Slag,  
a young man who continually  
worked hard for what he wanted.*

**T**o Mike, family was very important. His mother, father, and little sister were always top priority to him. When Mike was younger, he always protected his sister and was there for his mother. As Mike grew older, he became a lot closer to his father and looked to him for help through his “tuff times.” When Mike had the time, he would visit his mother and sister in Bismarck or take a trip to see his dad in Wisconsin.

Born and raised in the Devils Lake area, Mike easily fell in love with the agricultural world that surrounded him. He helped many farmers around the Devils Lake area and

became a full-time employee at the Byron and Terri Lannoye farm near Penn. The Lannoye family grew very close to Mike and were always quoted that Mike had become part of the family. *“This was something he had always loved doing, being outside, working the land, and living free,”* his mother said.

He loved the region’s outdoor paradise. He seized every chance to enjoy hunting, fishing, being with his dog Rock, and snowmobiling in the “white gold,” as Mike called it.

The military also held a special place in Mike’s heart. He joined the National Guard in 1997, which gave him the chance to travel the United States. After September 11, 2001, Mike served his country by being on active duty with the United States Army Border Patrol.

Unfortunately, Mike’s life was cut short by a tragic automobile accident near Westhope, North Dakota, on the afternoon of May 1, 2002.

His mother Joan, father Jeff, sister Kristy, Byron and Terri Lannoye, many other family members, and tons of friends established this endowment since earning a college degree was a goal Mike would have reached as his career advanced in the National Guard. Every year, in Mike’s memory, a scholarship will be awarded to a good, hard-working Lake Region State College student interested in agriculture and involved in a military lifestyle who possesses the strong work ethic Mike did.

And, as my last note, not only was Mike my brother; he was my friend, as I’m sure he was yours. ●