

Darius Harms
1937-2016

The eighth edition of the Half Century of Progress will be very different for many of us. We will miss the leadership, companionship and counsel of Central Illinois farmer Darius Harms.

From the very first event, held across the road from the 2003 Farm Progress Show at Henning, Illinois, Darius was a driving force for this show. Coordinating a team of hard working farmers and others, Darius brought together events that became unforgettable spectacles. After Henning, and after every Rantoul show that followed, those who attended the Half Century Of Progress spent two years talking about what they had witnessed. And they speculated for months about what they might see at the next show at the old Chanute Air Force Base.

Darius left us on July 21, 2016. Upon his passing the Mayor of Rantoul, Illinois painted a superb picture of Darius in very few words. "Darius was a community leader who demonstrated strength, compassion, love and a kind heart," said Mayor Chuck Smith. "He worked hard to showcase the Half Century Of Progress in Rantoul."

Those of us who helped Darius in some way with these colossal events, attended by people from every state in America and several foreign nations, have a mighty responsibility passed to us. Mr. Harms, we know, would expect to see nothing less when the gates open August 24, 2017 and through every hour that you folks are with us until the gates close...on his birthday...August 27, 2017.

With his spirit alongside us, and through the grace of God, we can't wait to welcome you back and salute the American agriculture industry Darius so loved. Please plan now to come play with us for four days in tribute to a great friend.

Max Armstrong
Broadcaster