

## **"The Hands of Vernie Frank"**

### **In Loving Memory of Laverne Ray Frank (1938-2025)**

With hands once calloused by soil  
and stone,

He built a life, a love, a home.

From Ideal fields to oceans wide,  
A sailor bold with patriot pride.

At seventeen, he chose to serve,  
With quiet strength and steady  
nerve.

A torpedoman with heart so wide,  
Yet gave his place so others thrived.

With Vesta's love, life took full form,  
Through trials, blessings, calm and  
storm.

Twelve children, laughter, tears,  
and grace—

Each memory a sacred place.

He carved from wood and crafted  
rock,

In every grain, God's silent talk.

With every gem, he shared his  
spark—

A Grandpa's joy, a legacy marked.

He farmed the land, his dad owned  
prior,

Geology his heart's desire.

He studied late, he worked all day,  
Still knelt at night to teach and pray.

The games, the cards, the raucous  
cheers,

The football taunts across the  
years—

The Steelers reigned (at least in  
jest),

But love for kin outshined the rest.

He saw in dirt the soul of things,  
In garden rows and angel wings.

His Corgis danced, his laughter  
soared,

His faith in Christ forever moored.

And now he walks where pain is  
done,

Where fields are lit by Heaven's sun.

He leaves behind more than a  
name—

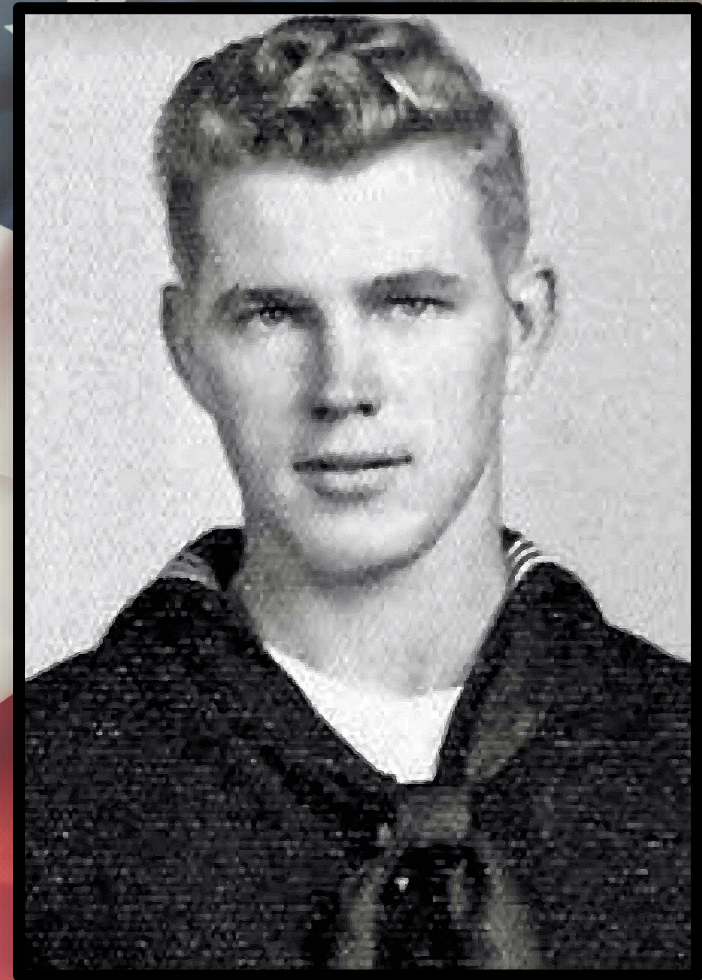
He leaves a light, a sacred flame.

So raise a glass of homemade wine,  
And tell the tales, both bold and  
kind.

For Vernie's hands built more than  
walls—

They built a legacy that never falls.

## *In Loving Memory*



## *Laverne Ray Frank*

December 9, 1938 ~ May 10, 2025



**L**averne (Vern/Vernie) Ray Frank, age 86, of Newcastle, WY, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on May 10, 2025.

Vernie was born December 9, 1938, in Belle Fourche, SD, to Ben and Genevieve Frank. He grew up in Ideal, SD, and graduated from Winner High School in 1956. Despite his parents' wishes, at 17, he joined the Navy and became a Petty Officer First Class, serving proudly as a torpedoman. He lived on to humbly love and support all veterans and taught his family to do the same.

While on leave, he began dating and later married his lifelong friend, Vesta Bice, and began farming near Winner, SD. Together, they shared 65 wonderful years and were blessed with 12 children.

In 1979, the family moved to Custer, SD, where Vernie worked as a carpenter and logger. He later earned a geology degree from the School of Mines, sparking a lifelong love of rocks. That passion turned into a cherished hobby of crafting jewelry and keychains—treasures he lovingly shared with his family.

Vern deeply loved Jesus and passed on his faith through nightly devotions and Bible study. He served actively in both the Berean and Wesleyan churches as a board member and Sunday School teacher.

In 1998, Vern and Vesta moved to Newcastle, WY. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, reloading, and wine-making. A proud Steelers fan (after years with the Vikings), Vern relished football season, complete with spirited family rivalries and playful taunts. He loved playing games—card games in particular—with family, where the room was always filled with loud laughter and good-natured yelling. That tradition lives on through his children and grandchildren. Vern often said his biggest joy was watching his kids and grandkids laughing and having fun.

In his later years, Vernie found joy in his beloved Corgis; Jessica, Wishbone and Gracie, who became his constant companions and were thoroughly spoiled.

Laverne is survived in his immediate family by his wife, Vesta; Vicki Frank, ID; Jeff (RaeJean) Frank, ID; Lori (Greg) Kaiser, SD; Lisa Oakley, WY; Vanesa (Darrell) Stevens, SD; Dawn Boggs, SD; Bobbi (Russell) Williams, SD; Tammy (Troy) Allen, WY; Stacy Haggerty (Mike Yuronich), WY; Justen (Missy) Frank, SD, 30 grandchildren, 50 plus great grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren and counting! He is also survived by his sisters Shirley Boyd, Jenny Lou Stern; 4 brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Vernie was preceded in death by his parents; mother and father-in-law, Melvin and Roberta Bice; brothers Burton and Merle (Punk); sons Jody and Jesse; daughter-in-law Stacey Ann; sons-in-law Matthew Himrich and Joe Haggerty; grandson-in-law Sean Barnhart; granddaughter, Brittany Frank and grandson Lucas Kaiser along with several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and aunts and uncles.

*Thank you for your presence and condolences.*



## *In Loving Memory Of Laverne Ray Frank*



### *Funeral Service*

**Monday, May 19, 2025 at 12:30 pm  
Kinkadee Funeral Chapel  
Sturgis, South Dakota**

### *Born*

**December 9, 1938  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota**

### *Died*

**May 10, 2025  
Ft. Meade, South Dakota**

### *Officiant*

**Pastor Adam Hartley**

### *Musical Selections*

**"Because He Lives"  
"Amazing Grace-My Chains Are Gone"**

### *Musicians*

**Sung by Jon and Greg Bice  
Accompanied by Debbie Steffen**

### *Pallbearers*

**Jace Jensen, Dustin Frank, Riley Frank, Tyson Barnhart,  
Landon Hathaway and Kyan Allen**

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

**Ben Frank, Devin Stenbom, Ausin Jensen, Logan Jensen, Wyatt  
Jensen, Lucas Kaiser, Josh Stevens, Parker Stevens, Teegan  
Hathaway, Colton Hathaway, Bill Boggs, Zane Lindley, Jake  
Hansen, Reece Williams, Adam Himrich and all family, Veterans  
and friends.**

### *Final Resting Place*

**Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota**

*"... But as for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord."  
Joshua 24:15*