

Clarence Willis John Jerke of Hot Springs, SD – On June 1st, 2025, Clarence received the call and was escorted on the wings of angels to reunite with so many that have gone before. It comforts us to know he now walks with Jesus. Clarence was one who truly was guided by three main principles - Faith, Family, and Country. Always humble and aware of the blessings God had bestowed, Clarence reflected a lesson in what gratitude, peace, and contentment looks like.

Strong in his faith, it carried him through everything he encountered. All who met him knew he had a never-ending smile and always a story to recall. Never one to complain or worry, he was undoubtedly the most positive and cheery person most have met. He knew his God was the one in charge and cast all his worries to Him. Truly he was an inspiration.

Raising a large family (8 children), Clarence devoted himself to doing whatever it took to take care of them. He farmed and ranched a majority of his life, later moving to the Black Hills and starting a new chapter operating a greenhouse and lawn/garden business. Clarence and his wife Beverly did their best to ensure their family was brought up with morals, principles, and faith in God. While not one to brag, Clarence did often speak of how proud he was of the family he and his wife Beverly had raised. To unwind he enjoyed watching rodeos and baseball (the Rockies were his favorite team), listening to polka music, and gardening (he was known for his green thumb and magic touch with roses and tropical hibiscus). He loved attending the German Fest in Hill City for many years – even dancing on the tables with his beer mug! And, he had a fondness of Jack Daniels – taken with ice and water at the end of a long day.

Clarence volunteered to serve his country by enlisting for the Korean War. Although he was only in the Army for a short time, he quickly rose to Seargent 1st Class, earning two Bronze Stars. He often got the troops up and going by going around tent to tent in the snow, shirtless and shoeless – by choice, because he believed in leading by example. It was a principle he always adhered to his entire life.

Clarence is survived by his children, Doug Jerke – Alliance, NE; Lee (Alma) Jerke – Alliance, NE; Scott Jerke – Winter Park, CO; Deb Nelson – Great Falls, MT; Sandie (Jason) Ingersoll – Rapid City, SD; Matt (Sue) Jerke – Monteagle, TN; Karen (Curtis) Street – Hill City, SD; Jake Jerke and Monique Wilson – Rapid City, SD; 7 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Clarence joins his wife, parents, 3 siblings, and 1 grandchild in heavenly peace.

Very special thanks and gratitude to the residents and staff at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs for their outstanding care. Truly, they have become like family. Clarence was always very appreciative of the friendships forged and all of the care and consideration he was given. It did not go unnoticed. Much like a child giddy with excitement, telling everyone about the new toy they received, he often spoke of the amazing care he was given. Little things which are often taken for granted, like a friendly smile, assistance with mobility, scenic drives, transportation to and from doctor appointments, daily care – meals, baths, medicine – he always spoke of these wonderful things which were done for him and the people that assisted him when needed. His heart was genuinely full of gratitude and love for all the caretakers – from CNAs to nurses, maintenance to transportation, activities to office staff—he appreciated them all.

Clarence is laid to rest, reunited with his beloved wife Beverly, in the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, SD.



In Loving Memory



Clarence Jerke

“*Taps*”

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake, from the skies.

All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep, may the soldier
or sailor, God keep. On the land or the deep, Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, must thou go,
when the day, and the night need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all To their rest.

Fades the light;
And afar Goeth day,
And the stars Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone, night is on.

Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky,
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

In Loving Memory

Clarence Jerke

March 3, 1931 ~ June 1, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE
1:30 p.m., Thursday June 5th 2025
Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Auditorium
Hot Springs, South Dakota

OFFICIANTS
Pastor Nathan James & Pastor Peter Utecht

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
“Amazing Grace”
“When Peace Like a River”
“God Bless Our Native Land”

PIANIST
Susan Decker

PALLBEARERS
Lee Jerke, Brandon Jerke, Logan Street,
Joshua Nelson, Matt Jerke, Jake Jerke
Curtis Street, Jason Ingersoll

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
Great-Grandsons: Theoden Hays, Becker Jerke, Westyn Jerke
All Clarence's Family and Friends

MILITARY HONORS
U.S. Army
Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard

MEMORIALS
Memorial donations be made to the American Legion Battle Mountain
Post 71 – Hot Springs, South Dakota