

James Edward Blakeman, 73, Sturgis, SD, passed away at his home on April 27, 2024.

Jim was born in Vancouver, Washington on June 6, 1950. As a child he moved with his family to Moorcroft, WY and then to Spearfish, SD for a short while before re-locating to Sturgis where he lived the remainder of his life.

Jim joined the Army in 1968 and returned to Sturgis after.

He married Deborah Heupel in 1979 until he was widowed in 2018.

In his younger years he worked as a mechanic and driving trucks in the logging industry. Later, he found himself drawn to Homestake Mining Company where he remained until its closure. He ended his working years retiring from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in Gillette, WY.

His early hobbies included spending time at the racetracks with the Saloon No. 10 racing team. Jim's passion for classic cars remained strong throughout his entire life. His years as a logger found him familiar with the back roads of the Black Hills where he loved spending time with Debbie cruising the UTV. He would rarely miss the opportunity to go enjoy a day on the trails.

Although not one to show a soft side very often, those for whom he cared knew Big Jimmy's style and felt his love.

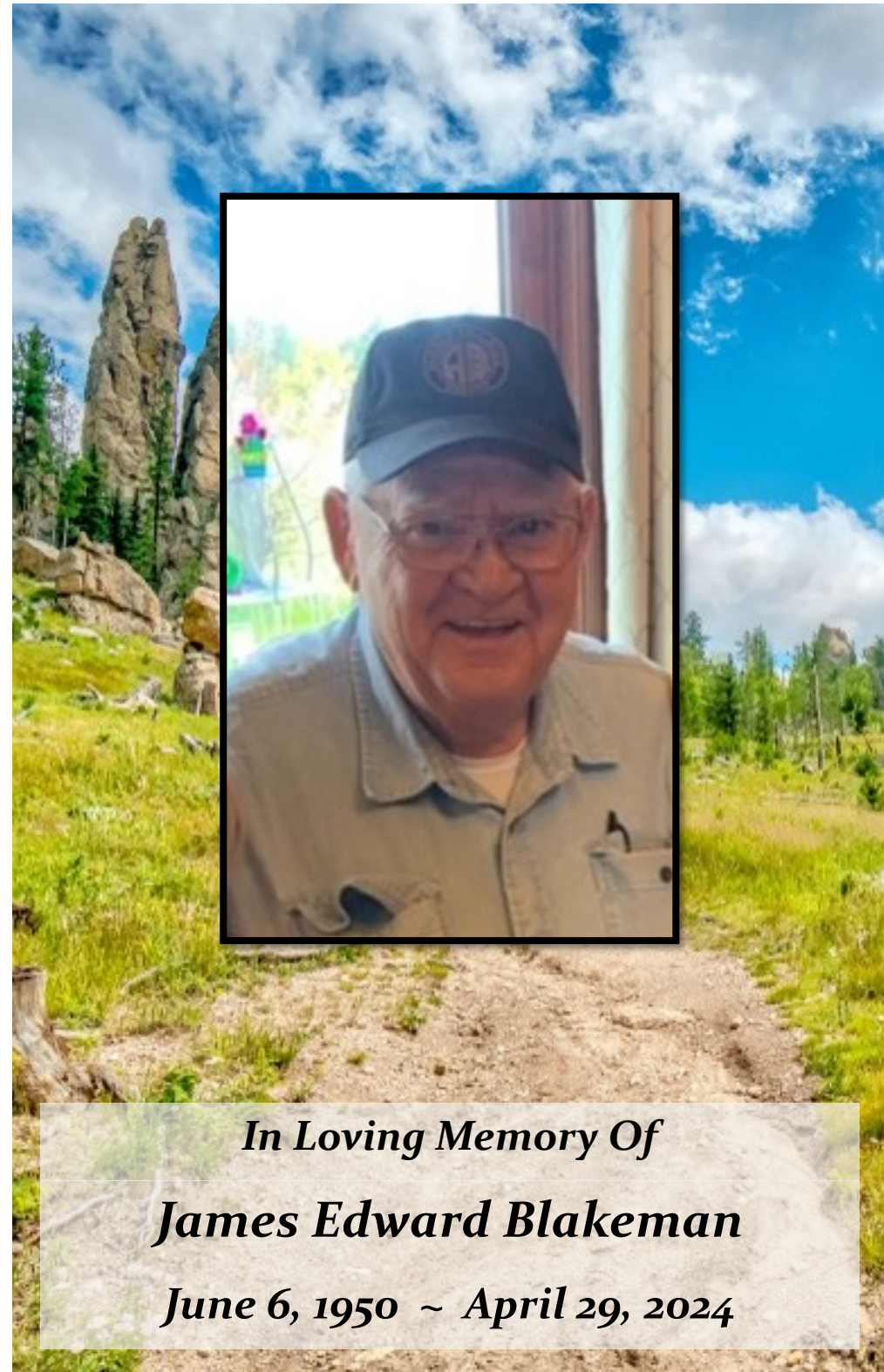
When his wife became ill, Jim and Debbie bought a home in Arizona to be closer to her physicians. Here Debbie was able to "Snowbird" in the winter; joined by Jim for his vacations.

Big Jimmy had a sense of humor which kept those around him entertained. He always had a joke up his sleeve and was never short of instigating something to get a laugh out of his audience.

His time here will be missed but, the family takes peace in knowing he is now reunited with Debbie which was his true desire ever since her passing.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and a meal downstairs in the Sonshine Room, following the committal.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*



In Loving Memory Of
James Edward Blakeman
June 6, 1950 ~ April 29, 2024

In Loving Memory Of
James Edward Blakeman

Born

June 6, 1950
Vancouver, Washington

Died

April 29, 2024
Sturgis, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Reverend Kevin Jensen

Musicians

Marlene Kotab Dan Chapman

Musical Selections

“Amazing Grace” “The Old Rugged Cross”
“I Want to Stroll Over Heaven With You”

Military Honors

SD Army National Guard
Sturgis Volunteer Honor Guard

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

*He never looked for praises
He was never one to boast
He just went on quietly working
For the ones he loved most.*

*His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the times his worries
Went unspoken too.*

*He was there.... A firm foundation
Through all our storms of life
A sturdy hand to hold on to
In times of stress and strife*

*A true friend we could turn to
When times were good or bad
One of our greatest blessings
The man we called Dad.*