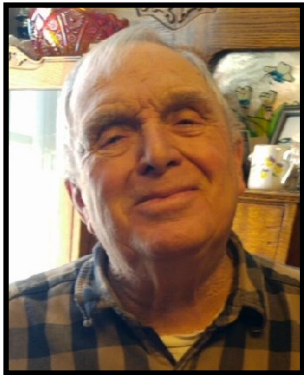


James Leonard Loftus



James “Jim” Leonard Loftus, 87, of Box Elder, SD, died Friday, April 21, 2023, at Department of Affairs Fort Meade Veteran’s Hospital at Fort Meade, SD.

How to sum up 87 years, 7 months, in 550 words or less? You know the stuff that makes up the dash between September 21, 1935 and April 21, 2023?

James Leonard Loftus was born in Montrose, SD, but in the mid-40s his folks decided to uproot their clan. Les, Hazel, Phyllis, Jimmy, and little Carol became West-River transplants, eventually setting down roots between Box Elder and New Underwood.

Jim graduated from New Underwood High School in ‘53 and married sweetheart / classmate, Joye Schiefelbein, in ‘57. Uncle Sam sent the two of them to Arizona in ‘59, returning to New Underwood in ‘61, a family of three. Rick was just 15 months old when Deb showed up bumping to four the number of mouths, he was responsible to feed. A few years later, Les and Hazel heard the call of Southbound, sun-seeking snowbirds and joined the annual migration, leaving Jim and family to ‘mind the place’. With the I-90 and base housing construction projects winding down, Jim was soon going to be out of work and needed more than a freezer full of chickens to get them through till harvest or the next cattle sale. What could provide a steady, agriculture-based paycheck? Milk cows of course.

A few tons of concrete, some corrugated sheet metal, and Surge milking equipment and the Loftus Dairy was born. Followed a couple years later, in ‘67, with the birth of Ken. His farm and family had come together nicely.

Jim’s next 50 years are filled with milking, farming, ranching, equipment breakdowns and ten thousand trips to town, vacations, holidays with family, coffee and cards with friends and neighbors, Patron Co-op board meetings, weddings, and church on Sundays. The dash is filling up.

To date, the dash connecting 1935 and 2023 includes son and daughters-in-law: Mike Moken, Brenda (Johnson) Loftus, and Shelley (Mercy) Loftus. All contributing to the wealth of Jim’s life’s dash. Before he knew it there was Chris and Ashley (Robinson) Moken, and son, Major; Jen and Cody Loftin, with sons, Kian, Wyatt, and Alex; Rachel and Keegan Weyrich; Austin and April (Magnuson) Loftus, and daughter, Lena Rose; Cody and Colby (Smith) Loftus, and daughter, Elliot Joye; Rebekah Loftus; Kyle Loftus; Kelsey and Bailey Ruff, and daughter, Natalie.

No life dash can escape heartbreak and goodbyes. In Jim’s case those include his parents and wife, Joye, who, for the first time in their 60-year-marriage, finds herself waiting for him.

The final words of advice Jim would leave anyone who touched his heart was “you behave yourself!” And the one word he’d likely use to describe the tail-end of his dash would be “uff-da”.

A sincere thank-you, from his grateful family, to all the gracious people who worked the last few years to lessen the uff-da.

Looking forward to seeing you again when we get there.

A memorial has been established.

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

*The family would like you to join them for fellowship
and lunch following the service in the church hall.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*

In Loving Memory Of



James Leonard Loftus

September 21, 1935 ~ April 21, 2023

Goodbyes

are not

Forever.

goodbyes are not

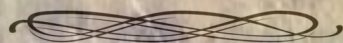
The End.

they simply mean

I'll Miss You

until we

Meet Again.



In Loving Memory Of
James Leonard Loftus

Born
September 21, 1935
Montrose, South Dakota

Died
April 21, 2023
Fort Meade, South Dakota

Memorial Service
Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Believers Fellowship
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant
Chaplain Justin Warfel

Musicians
Jen Loftin April Loftus

Musical Selection
"There You'll Be"

Honorary Pallbearers
All Grandkids and Great-Grandkids

Final Resting Place
At A Later Date
Black Hills National Cemetery