

Gerald "Junior" Wetz



Gerald "Junior" Wetz was born on January 31, 1931, to Gerald and Amelia (Schaff) Wetz near Vale, and he grew up on the family ranch there. On October 1, 1950, he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Elizabeth Hunt and to this union, three children were born, LeRoy, Greg, and Tammie. In 1978, Junior and Marie moved

to Alaska for eight years. They then returned to the family ranch and retired. After Marie's death in 1999, Junior moved to Vale and lived there, until moving to Sturgis in 2010.

Junior, 83, Sturgis, and formerly of Vale, died Friday, October 24, 2014, at Sturgis Regional Hospital, Lippold Hospice Suite.

Junior is survived by his sons, LeRoy (Shirley) Wetz, Vale, and Greg (Kathy) Wetz, Vale; daughter, Tammie (Randy) Candelario, Pleasanton, CA; seven grandchildren, Dale, Darla, June, J.W., Lyle, Casey, and Evan; eleven great-grandchildren; three brothers, Harold Wetz, James Wetz, and Darrell Wetz; two sisters, Helen Seitz and Geraldine Toner; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Marie; and two sisters, Julia Mullaney and Dorothy Boyce.

A memorial has been established to the Wetz School Museum Fund.

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



In Loving Memory Of



Junior Wetz

1931 ~ 2014

A Cowboy's Prayer
By Badger Clark

*Oh Lord, I've never lived where churches grow.
I've loved creation better as it stood
That day You finished it, so long ago
And looked upon Your work and called it good.
I know that others find You in the light
That's sifted down through tinted window panes,
And yet I seem to feel You near tonight
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.*

*I thank You, Lord, that I'm placed so well,
That You have made my freedom so complete;
That I'm no slave to whistle, clock or bell,
Nor weak-eyed prisoner of wall and street.
Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky;
Make me a partner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.*

*Let me be easy on the man that's down;
Let me be square and generous with all.
I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in town,
But never let 'em say I'm mean or small!
Make me as big and open as the plains,
As honest as the hawse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze!*

*Forgive me, Lord, if sometimes I forget,
You know about the reasons that are hid,
You understand the things that gall and fret,
You know me better than my mother did.
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said
And right me sometimes when I turn aside,
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.*

In Loving Memory Of

Gerald "Junior" Wetz

Born

January 31, 1931
Vale, South Dakota

Died

October 24, 2014
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Tuesday, October 28, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.
Believers Fellowship Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor John Williamson

Soloist

Danny Chapman

Musical Selections

"Green, Green Grass Of Home"
"How Great Thou Art"

Pallbearers

Tom Bowen ~ Don Trohkimoinen ~ Ken Kluck
Wayne Oedekoven ~ Ken Wetz ~ Glen Schummer

Honorary Pallbearers

All Grandchildren

Interment

Vale Cemetery
Vale, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the Vale Community Hall
following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*