

Gerald E. Kirk, 83, passed away peacefully at home on February 23, 2021 in Spearfish, SD.

Gerald was born April 7, 1937 at Newell, SD to Ralph and Sylvia (Sundstrom) Kirk. He was raised and grew up on the family ranch near Mud Butte, SD, where he adored weekends with the Sundstrom cousins, along with Uncle Juno and Aunt Bud, listening to classic country music. He attended country school and graduated from Newell High School in 1955. Gerald was passionate about sports, particularly football, basketball, and baseball in high school. He also coached his beloved Kirk's Jet Service softball team that won the 1986 State B Softball Tournament, and until his death, attended and cheered at every grandchild's and great-grandchild's sporting events. This gentle, proud man with a sweet tooth never missed a team roping of Duane's or any PRCA rodeo, in person or on the Cowboy Channel.

Gerald met his wife, Anne (Milberg) in high school, and they were married October 20, 1957, experiencing an amazing 63 years together. They were blessed with three children, Cheryl, Duane, and Daren. Gerald and Anne lived and worked on the ranch until moving to Sturgis, SD in 1978, when they purchased, expanded, and operated Kirk's Jet Service. After retiring from the gas and service station business, Gerald and Anne moved to Pueblo, CO, where he was a sales representative for various animal mineral and nutrition companies. Family and the Black Hills brought them back to their final residence in Spearfish, SD in 2001. Gerald was a strong community supporter in every town they resided, belonging to the Masons, serving as President of the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association, and most importantly, being active in his churches, most recently, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD.

Gerald had a passion for airplanes, flying his own plane on the ranch, shooting coyotes, and later becoming a Captain of the Civil Air Patrol. He enjoyed camping with Anne around the Black Hills and after fully retiring, taking their house on wheels around the United States. As an avid hunter, he looked forward to the Kirk family 4th generation deer hunt every fall.

Gerald is survived by his wife of 63 years, Anne (Milberg); children, Cheryl VanSickle, Spearfish, SD, Duane, Box Elder, SD, and Daren (Lori), Sturgis, SD; five grandchildren, Kim Jensen, Jamie VanSickle, Dani Adams, Kandi Cermak, and Craig Kirk; fifteen great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and one sister, Nita Griffin.

He is preceded in death by both parents; son-in-law, Dan VanSickle; and brother-in-law, James Griffin.

A memorial has been established in Gerald's name to the Wilson Cemetery, Civil Air Patrol, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD.

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

A social hour will be held at Studio 621, 621 Main Street, Spearfish, SD, immediately following the memorial services. We thank you for your presence and condolences.

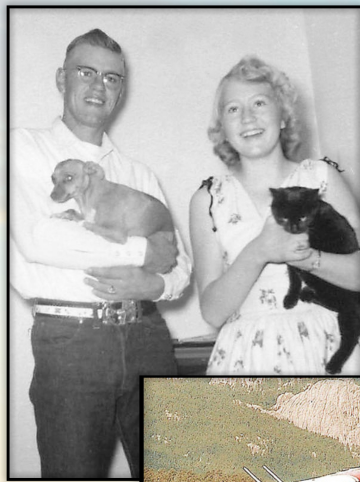


*"O that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest . . ."
Psalm 55:6*

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gerald E. Kirk

April 7, 1937 ~ February 23, 2021



THE FINAL FLIGHT

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard His call
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joys --
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief --
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee --
God wanted me now: He set me free.*

In Memory Of **Gerald E. Kirk**

Date of Birth
April 7, 1937
Newell, South Dakota

Date of Death
February 23, 2021
Spearfish, South Dakota

Memorial Service
Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Spearfish, South Dakota

Officiating
Pastor Stephan Sandness

Musicians
Terri Kissack & Butch Samuelson
Diane Bryan

Special Music
"On Eagle's Wings" "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"
"Grandpa" "I'll Fly Away" "Happy Trails"

Pallbearers
Craig Kirk Kandi Cermak
Dani Adams Kim Jensen Jamie VanSickle

Honorary Pallbearers
Tayler Jensen Trevor Jensen Tate Jensen Libby Jensen
Brody Rickels Gbomi Kayode Jumi Kayode Onami Kayode
Owen Adams Sylvia Adams Kailee Kirk Carter Kirk
Evan Stroud Elijah Stroud Ethan Cermak
Great-Great-Grandson: Danny Jensen

Private Family Graveside
Wilson Cemetery
Vale, South Dakota