Philip Neri Bestgen, 98, Whitewood, SD, died Monday, February 28, 2022, at Monument Health in Sturgis.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, with rosary services beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday, March 4, at St. Martin's Chapel in Sturgis with Fr. Timothy Castor officiating. Burial will follow at the St. Aloysius Cemetery. A memorial has been established.

Philip was born October 28, 1923, north of Sturgis, SD, to John and Jesse (Dryer) Bestgen. He attended country schools and graduated from St. Martin's Academy in Sturgis, SD.

On July 6, 1950, Philip married Darlene (Enright) at Sturgis. They moved to the Bestgen farm and ranch where they farmed for the next 60 years. After Darlene's death, Philip continued living on the farm until his death.

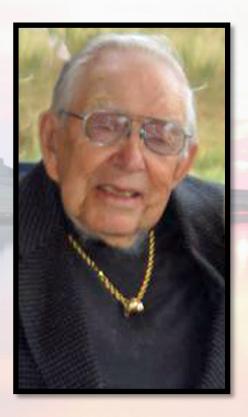
Philip had great wit throughout his life. In his later years he wrote wonderful poems to share with his family. His wife and their family were the joy of his life. He repeatedly stressed that the greatest treasure in life is family, and he considered himself the richest man alive.

Survivors include his sons, Leo (Sinnet) Bestgen, Sturgis, Greg (Judy) Bestgen, Rapid City, Roch (Rita) Bestgen, Whitewood, Dan (Deb) Bestgen, Rapid City, Tim (Karen) Bestgen, Piedmont, Rob (Susan) Bestgen, Rochester, MN; daughters, Nerine (John) Gross, Sturgis, Mary (Jerry) Werdel, Yankton, SD, Sharon (Jeff) Beardt, Rapid City; seventy-one grandchildren, eighty great-grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene; his parents; seven siblings; and five grandsons.

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

In Loving Memory Of



Philip Neri Bestgen
October 28, 1923 ~ February 28, 2022

As Years Go By

A poem by Phil Bestgen

As the years go by and memories fade

How we handled our life, the choices we made

Did we use the talents that we had been given

To enjoy life while trying just to make a livin'

Did we treat all others as we would be treated

To help them whenever we felt we were needed

Can we now say yes, that we gave it a try

And now be contented as the years go by

If we have done all that is stated above

We will then be rewarded with undying love

From our kids and our in-laws we know are the best

And our grandkids great grandkids and all the rest

That makes up the branches of the sacred tree

That is sturdy and straight, yea that's our family

In Loving Memory Of Philip Neri Bestgen

Born

October 28, 1923 South Dakota

Died

February 28, 2022 Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Services

Friday, March 4, 2022, 11:00 a.m. St. Martin's Chapel Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Father Timothy Castor

Musicians

Dr. Barry Furze ~ Myron Volk

Music

"Ave Maria"

Pallbearers

Leo Bestgen ~ Greg Bestgen ~ Roch Bestgen Dan Bestgen ~ Tim Bestgen ~ Rob Bestgen

Honorary Pallbearers

All of his Godchildren

Final Resting Place

St. Aloysius Cemetery Sturgis, South Dakota