

James "Jim" M. Harrison, 79, of Sturgis, died Friday, October 30, 2020 at Monument Health Hospital in Rapid City as a result of an automobile accident. Jim was the 2nd child of four born to Bill and Pearl (Davis) Harrison on February 12, 1941 in McPherson County, SD. He attended country school in Forbes, ND through the 8th grade and then graduated from Forbes High School in 1959. He joined the Army in 1959, had his one "cruise" to Korea, got out in 1962, and came home to work on the family farm.

Jim married Rita Ellsworth on May 27, 1962. To this union, five children were born. They farmed for 10 years until 1972, when they moved to Colman, SD. Jim went back to school at the Pipestone Technical Institute while working as a Vet Tech for Doc Don Phillips. In February of 1975, the family moved to the farm in Mitchell, SD, where Jim went to work for the Production Credit Association (PCA). After a few years, he worked at the Aberdeen PCA. In 1980, he took a job with Clinton State Bank in Clinton, MN. In November of 1981, the family went to Timber Lake, SD as he continued his career with the PCA. In 1987, Jim began his long career as vice president of agriculture at First Western Bank in Sturgis, SD. This is where the family has stayed.

Jim was an avid collector of animals throughout his life, starting with St. Bernards and Siberian Huskies early, on the farm. Throughout the years there were dogs, sheep, goats, raccoons, horses, and rabbits. So many rabbits. He had a love of horses and at one point he was raising over 20 miniature horses. They were a constant source of work for the entire family, but a constant source of enjoyment for him. The family was in parades and shows with his minis and custom-built carts, some 2-wheeled, some built for a team. When hooves needed trimming or ice needed breaking, he got up and started calling in the cavalry.

Jim loved a good auction. Every weekend there were auctions to go to. He met so many people and formed friendships throughout those sales.

Jim loved to cook. Many of times we would get our fill of pie crusts, bread, and donuts because he didn't quit until he had them perfected. We attended many area chili cook-offs through the years. For a few years it got pretty competitive with him and the Dr. Bernie Fields family. Dad loved to win.

Jim's favorite things in the world were his family: first his children, then his grandkids. He had a soft spot for those girls. Every one of them had a special place in his heart. He had so many granddaughters in a row, we think he'd given up on more grandsons. He loved to share his knowledge and tease them. He was an early bird, so beware if you didn't get up when he called. He may come in singing, playing a harmonica, or leading one of his miniature horses into your room. He loved a good practical joke and he always had a story to tell.

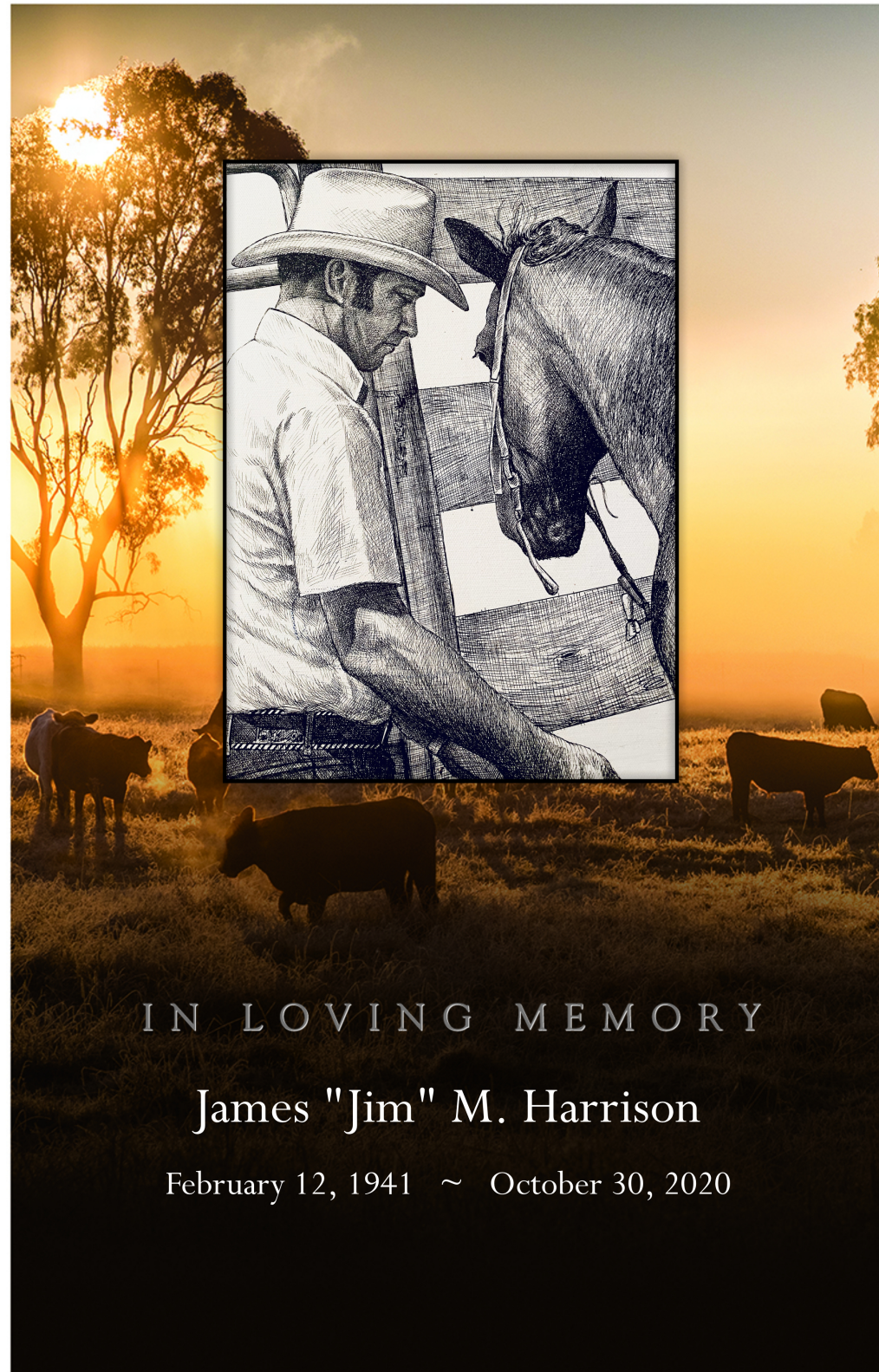
Jim is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rita; his children, Debra Harrison, Moorcroft, WY, and Douglas Harrison (Robin Clarke), Shawn (Carla) Harrison, Robin (Jed) Korth, and Dustin (Stephanie) Harrison, all of Sturgis; and his grandchildren, Jamie (Tim) Helms, Jessica (Sage) Porter, Ryan and Riley Harrison, Chelsea and Hunter Harrison, Libby and Connor Korth, Lexi (Blake) Burtzlaff, Sydney Harrison, Kylie Nelson, Elliott Brooke, Tawnee and Ashlee Harrison, and Aidan Wood. He also had 3 1/2 great grandchildren, Aamira, James, and Matthew Helms, and Baby Burtzlaff coming in 2021. He is also survived by his sister, Carol (Jim) Bilbrey, Circle Pines, MN; his brother Kenny (Merla) Harrison, Baltic, SD; and he had numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins who all loved him dearly.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Pearl Harrison; his sister and brother-in-law, Jan and Wilbur Shuck; his daughter-in-law, Shana Harrison; and his mother-in-law, Berniece Voeller.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the church hall following the memorial service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

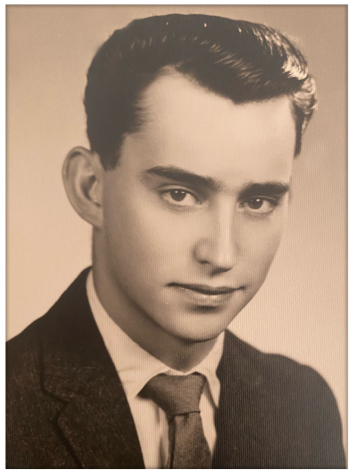


IN LOVING MEMORY

James "Jim" M. Harrison

February 12, 1941 ~ October 30, 2020





## *A Family Man*

*If someone were to ask me why I'm so proud of you,  
I have so many reasons, but here are just a few.  
Your caring manner with the kids, your sacrificing way,  
Your knowing life's priorities in living day to day.  
Your goal to give to each of us the things we most desire.  
Your ability to be that family man is what I most admire.  
And though I rarely say how much these mean to me  
I tell you now with all my heart,  
You're everything to me!*



## *In Memory Of* **James "Jim" M. Harrison**

### *Date of Birth*

February 12, 1941  
McPherson County, South Dakota

### *Date of Death*

October 30, 2020  
Rapid City, South Dakota

### *Memorial Service*

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.  
Sturgis United Methodist Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### *Officiating*

Pastor Jenene Earl

### *Songs*

"In Heaven On A Horse"  
"Wind Beneath My Wings"  
"I Hope You Dance"

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

Johnny Holloway   Bud Schirber   Al Thoreson  
Dan Mayer   R.T. Shaw   Ron Ragsdale

### *Final Resting Place*

To Be Held In The Spring Of 2021  
Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### *Military Honors*

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard  
South Dakota Army National Guard