

James William Crockford

James (Jim) William Crockford was born May 29, 1937, in Sturgis, SD, at the Anderson home, with a mid-wife, to Arthur and Mildred (Hanks) Crockford. He grew up and attended school in Sturgis, SD, graduating May 28, 1955, one day before his 18th birthday. He entered the Navy and was stationed for 27 months of his three years of service overseas in the Philippine Islands, Guam, and Siapan.

On August 12, 1956, he married, Velma Bachand at the Dan Beug Ranch in rural Sturgis. He was discharged from the service in 1958, and the couple returned to Sturgis, farming near Vale at his grandfather's farm from 1959 until 1962.

In 1962, the couple moved to Woodland, CA, and then returned to Vale, SD in 1963. They lived and worked on the 40-acre farm while he also worked for Newell District running grade and then Ft. Meade until 1971, when they moved to Mason City, IA, where he started a dual partnership in an excavating company. Then he worked as foreman at Benderoff & Associates and ran blade until 1975, and then started his own excavating business full time. In 1984, due to medical reasons, they returned to Sturgis, SD, and worked for Meade County and then returned to work at Ft. Meade in 1985, retiring in 1991.

After Velma's death in 1990, he moved to Belle Fourche, SD. He then married, Karen Gerig on March 13, 1993. The couple then moved to Faith, SD in May of 2006, where they lived together until Karen's passing in 2017. Jim stayed in Faith until March of 2019, and then, lastly, moved to Belle Fourche, SD.

Jim was a member of the Moose Club, and the Mason City Muzzleloaders Club. He enjoyed living-history rendezvousing, gunsmithing, building stringed-instruments, hunting, fishing, and enjoyed family and friends.

James William Crockford, 84, of Belle Fourche, SD, died Monday, September 20, 2021 at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital.

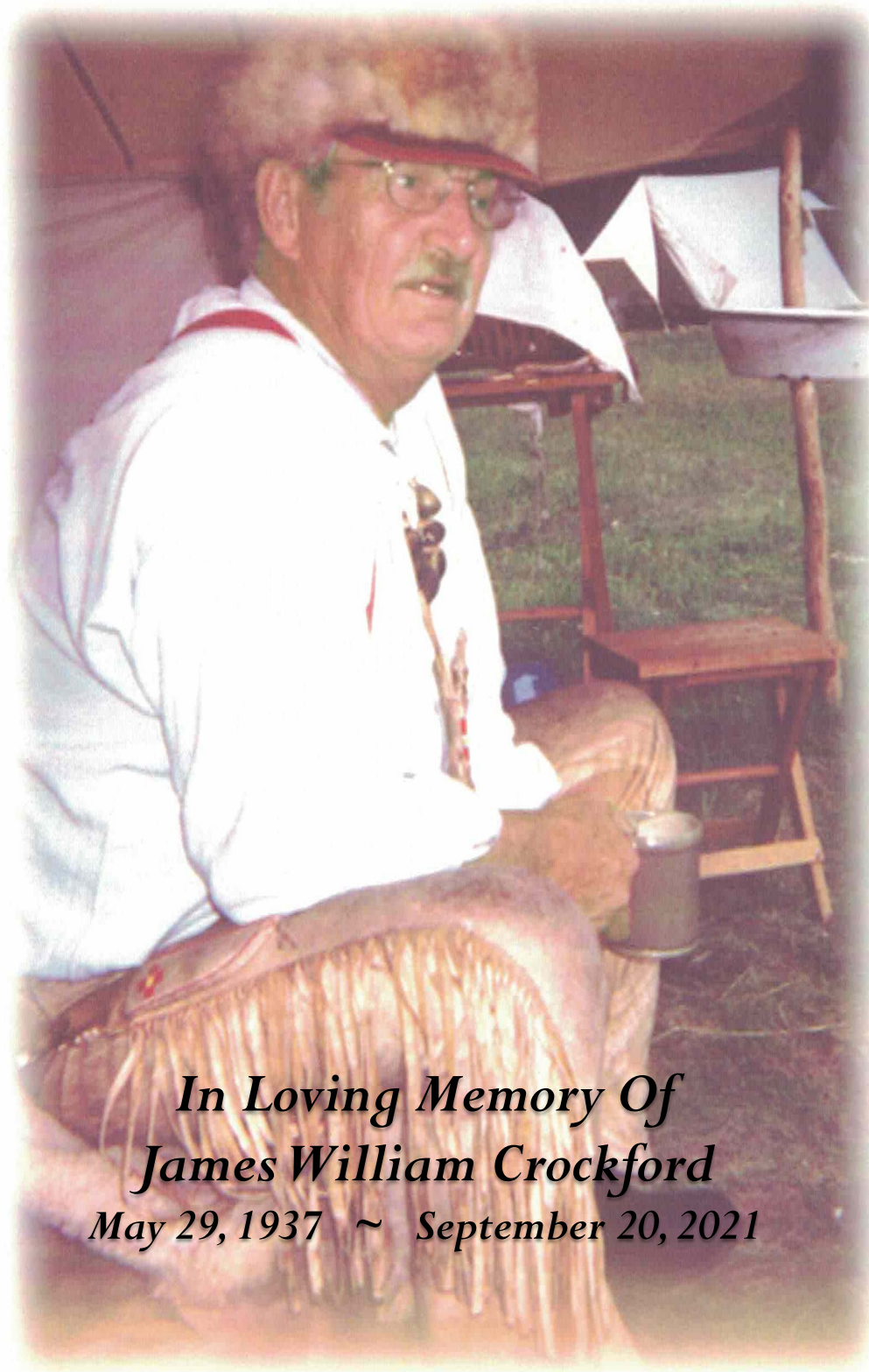
Survivors include son, Lyle (Deb) Crockford of Mason City, IA; daughters, Terry Crockford of Sturgis, SD, and DeeAnn Crockford of Belle Fourche, SD; grandsons, Michael, Tanner, Ben (Brie), Rusty, Nolan (Blaire) Crockford; grand-daughter, Nichole Crockford; great-grandson, Keegan Crockford; great-granddaughters, Madelyn, and Sila Crockford; Jim also has another great-grandchild on the way that he didn't know about upon his death; and Geri Olson, cousin (very close with, like a sister).

He was preceded in death by mother; dad; infant brother; both wives; and three sons: Michael, Kenneth, and Daniel.

In lieu of flowers, Jim has requested donations to the American Cancer Society in honor of Velma and Karen.

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

*The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the Vet's Club in Sturgis following the committal service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



In Loving Memory Of
James William Crockford
May 29, 1937 ~ September 20, 2021

Up Hill Climb

By Jim Crockford

The loss of a loved one
Is a tragic thing upon the mind,
It deals hard upon your emotions
You feel part of you is left behind.

There seems to be a mighty void
That nothing there will ever fill,
And each day that you live
Finds you struggling an unclimbable hill.

Somewhere along this hard journey
Is a path that leads to the top,
And you must pick up and carry on,
That loved one wouldn't want you to stop.

Life goes on, so they say,
And time has a way to heal.
You can pull upon faith, family, and friends
To fill the emptiness you do feel.

There are no words to console
The hurt there in your heart,
But you do have the love and memories
That keeps you from feeling apart.

The one thing you must remember
As you struggle through this troubled time,
How rich you are to have shared their love
As up that hill you do climb.

And when you do reach the top,
I am sure that there will be
Someone there waiting for you
And all your loved ones you will see.



In Loving Memory **James William Crockford**

Born

May 29, 1937
Sturgis, South Dakota

Died

September 20, 2021
Spearfish, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Monday, September 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Andy Anderson

Musician

Derek Anderson

Special Music

“On Eagle’s Wings”
“Take My Hand, Precious Lord” “Amazing Grace”

Pallbearers

Bruce Humble Nichole Crockford Rusty Crockford
Ben Crockford Nolan Crockford

Honorary Pallbearer

Mike Stocklin

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota