



## **Fredrick Joseph "Fritz" Fonck**

Fritz was born May 14, 1923, at Sturgis to Joseph and Bertha "Collins" Fonck. He grew up on the family homestead which was 25 miles East of Sturgis and 6 miles South of Volunteer, SD. He attended grade school at Wolf School District #24, South of Volunteer. He left home at the age of 12 years with the influence of the great depression and the dirty 30's, in search of

work. He had many jobs for 60 cents per week with room and board and some jobs at 50 cents per day. He worked his way through high school with various jobs around the area. After completing high school he entered the US Navy.

Upon the end of his hitch and World War II, he returned with an honorable discharge to Sturgis where he married Betty Lou Simmons of Piedmont, SD. To this union of 25 years, three sons were born.

Fritz worked at different jobs around the area including Chase's Department Store, US Post Office, Ft. Meade VA Hospital, and all four sale barns in the area for 32 years. He also worked for several registered cattle outfits as herdsman. He worked for the State of South Dakota at the McNenny Fish Hatchery for 19 and a half years before his retirement due to a serious heart overhaul.

He still kept a job on a ranch near Union Center, SD. Fritz raised and broke horses and mules all through his life. He was a wagon master for the Black Hills National Cemetery Centennial Wagon Train into Deadwood's Days of '76 for 32 years. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, American Legion and the riding clubs of the area on his mules.

Fredrick Joseph "Fritz" Fonck, 93, Union Center, SD, died Thursday, July 28, 2016, at the VA Black Hills Health Care Center at Fort Meade.

Survivors include his son Thomas (Ginger) Fonck, West Virginia; five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, two great- great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, two brothers, five sisters, one granddaughter and a very precious friend, Yvonne Ferguson.

A memorial has been established to the Enning Fire Department.

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

## ***In Loving Memory***



## ***Frederick "Fritz" Joseph Fonck***

***1923 ~ 2016***

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Erskine room for lunch following committal. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



### **COWBOY'S PRAYER**

O 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.

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 and high.

Make me as big and open as the plains;  
As honest as the horse between my knees;  
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains;  
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze.

Just keep an eye on all that's done and said;  
Just right me sometime when I turn aside;  
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead - -  
That stretches upward towards the Great Divide.

*In Loving Memory Of*

## ***Frederick "Fritz" Joseph Fonck***

### ***Born***

May 14, 1923  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Died***

July 28, 2016  
Fort Meade, South Dakota

### ***Funeral Services***

Monday, August 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Officiants***

Pastor Harold Delbridge  
Rev. Denzel Nonhof

### ***Musician***

Danny Chapman

### ***Musical Selections***

"The Old Rugged Cross" "Wings Of A Dove"  
"Waltz Across Texas"

### ***Pallbearers***

Lyle Wilcox ~ Gene Gales ~ Jerry Miles  
John Rhoden ~ Kenny Rhoden ~ Levi Rhoden

### ***Military Honors***

Sturgis Volunteer Honor Guard

### ***Interment***

Bear Butte Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota