

Richard LeRoy "Gator" Willuweit

Richard was born December 14, 1947, in Philip, SD, to Christian and Marjorie (Guethlein) Willuweit. The first couple of years, the family lived west of Phillip before moving to Quinn, SD, and finally settled in Wall, SD, in 1956. He started his education at Wall Public School where he went through all twelve grades graduating in 1966 with a perfect attendance, an honor that earned him a plaque that he always pointed at with pride.

After graduation, he went to the Denver Automotive Institute through April 1969. He moved back to Wall after graduation where he worked at the Wall Auto Livery. He was drafted in 1969 and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA, where he spent his two years. After he served his service term, he returned to Wall and the Wall Auto Livery until the fall of 1977.

Richard then worked for Estes Brothers Construction Company. This is where he earned his nickname "Gator" from Kelly (Cobb) Lampbert. This was a nickname he carried with pride and everyone who knew him called him by this nickname. To "Gator" no one was a stranger.

Gator and two of his daughters moved back to Wall and lived in the family home. He worked at the Two Bit Salon at night and for John Clements Refuge Service in the day. On January 16, 1990, he again went to serve his country by going with his National Guard Unit to Operation Desert Storm. After returning from Desert Storm, he married Kathy Pearson on July 13, 1991. This marriage lasted till October 1999.

He moved to Sturgis where he worked in the Sturgis Sawmill until February 2009. Richard retired in December 2010.

Richard LeRoy "Gator" Willuweit, 64, of Sturgis, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Fort Meade VA Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

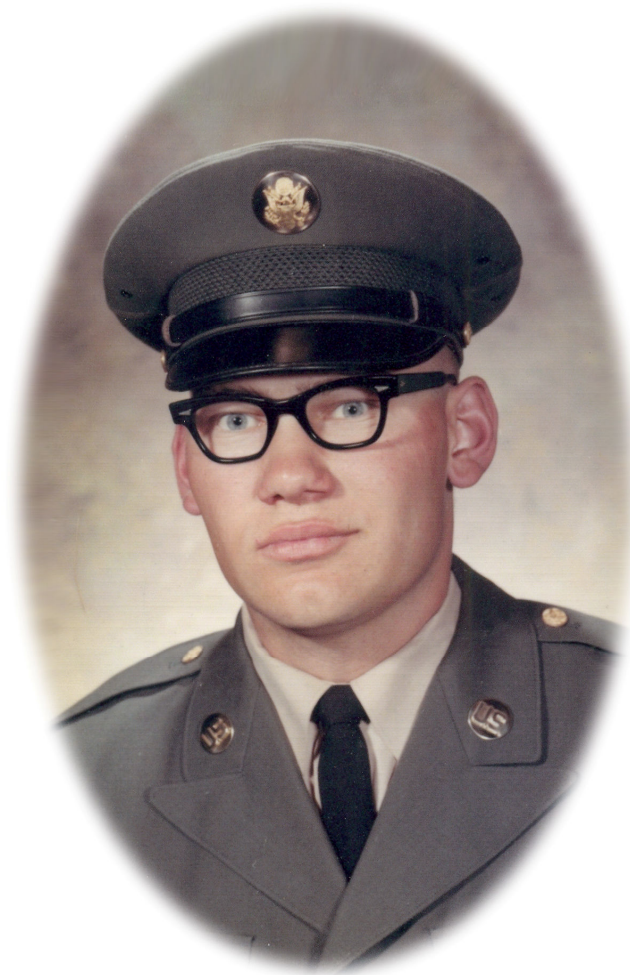
Grateful to have shared his life are daughters, Amber Willuweit, Spearfish, SD, Correna (Daniel) Templar, Black Hawk, SD, and Priscilla (William) Sams, Gillette, WY; son, Chris Willuweit; sister, Delila (Matthew) Hughes, Hot Springs, SD; nine grandchildren, William, Christian, Autumn, Travis, Billy, Kylie, Jacob, Raeanna, and Joseph; his pal and sidekick, Scoobey; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

In Loving Memory of

Richard LeRoy "Gator" Willuweit



1947 - 2012

*The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch
at the church following the inurnment service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences*



***A Father's Farewell
to His Children***

*When I must leave you
for a little while,
Please do not grieve
and shed wild tears,
And hug your sorrow to you
through the years,
But start out bravely
with a gallant smile:*

*And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*



***In Loving Memory Of
Richard LeRoy "Gator" Willuweit***

Born

December 14, 1947
Philip, South Dakota

Died

May 1, 2012
Ft. Meade, South Dakota

Prayer Service

Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Lions Club Park Gazebo
"Daddy's Hands"
"Holes In The Floor Of Heaven"
"Crying For Me"

Memorial Service

Friday, May 4, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating

Rev. Lloyd Lemke

Organist

Janeen Lemke

Congregational Hymns

"Amazing Grace" # 379
"Just As I Am" # 397
"Rock Of Ages" # 389
"Forever With The Lord" # 213
"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #157

Military Honors

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery