

## Carl John Wahl

Carl John Wahl was born July 2, 1938, in Quinn, SD, to John George and Ella Marie (Johannesen) Wahl. He grew up on the family ranch west of Union Center and graduated from Sturgis High School in 1955. He attended the Ag Program at SDSU. Later, he joined the Air Force, which took him many places, including Guam and Japan.

In 1963, he married Ursula Seidel and later adopted Vivien Bastian. Together, they had 3 additional children, Candy, Elizabeth, and Carl, Jr.

Carl loved working and living on the ranch. He said the hayfield was his church. He was extremely proud of the quality of the cattle that he worked with his father to create. The cattle were the hardest thing to let go of when he retired. He loved rodeos and enjoyed the Black Hills Stock Show. Carl was invested in the community and liked to stay involved. He was a member of the Meade 46-1 School Board for 36 years, as the kids' education was very important to him. Additionally, he was a member of the Olive Branch #47 for 50 years, and was one of the founding members of The Rushmore German Club, holding a variety of board positions. He always looked forward to the trips the German Club took, especially to Denver and New Ulm, and enjoyed volunteering during the Sommerfest.

Carl was well-known for his jokes and his storytelling. He once raced another car down Boulder Canyon. He would shut the lights off before the curves to see if there were lights from an oncoming car. His record was 8 minutes. During the Rally, he loved checking IDs at the door of the Fireside, a job that provided him with many entertaining stories.

Above everything, Carl was a kind man who would always help out a neighbor. You never saw him without a smile on his face. He cherished his friends and family, which is why he loved holidays and celebrations and watching the little ones running around. He spent many Thanksgiving holidays in Washington with Elizabeth and her family. In his spare time, he could be found going to Elk Creek on Sunday afternoons to dance to The Wilt Brothers, camping with his friends, or travelling as often as possible, usually to Florida, Mexico, and Germany.

Carl John Wahl, 80, of Sturgis, passed away on Monday, March 4, 2019, at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

He is survived by his daughters, Candy Bieber of Sturgis, and Elizabeth "Lisa" (Paul) Custis of McCleary, WA; his son, Carl (Jenifer) Wahl, Jr. of Houghton Lake, MI; brother, Jim (Vicky) Wahl of Fulton; sister, Kathy (Jim) Shaw of White Owl; grandchildren, Travis, Ryan, Matthew, Nathan, Kelly, Sara, Renee, Megan, Connor, Marley, Jack, Valerie, Ivan, Delilah, Amore' and Earl; and several great-grandchildren.

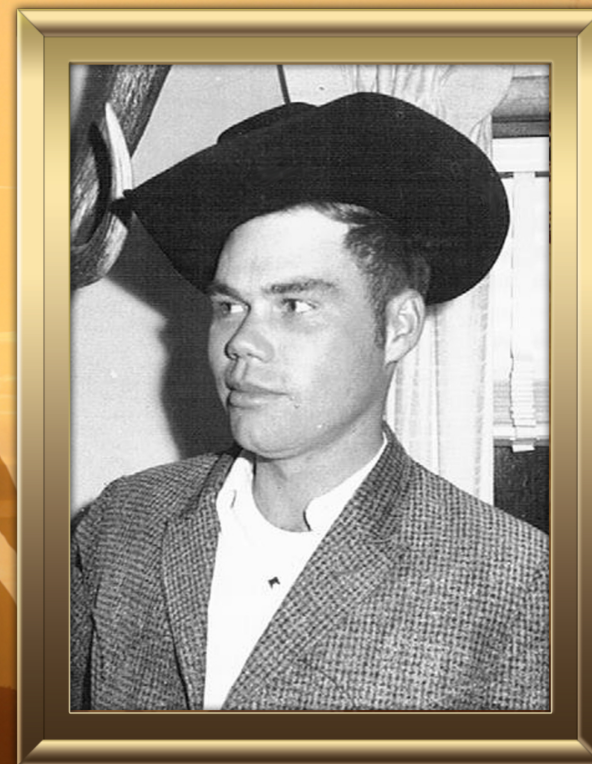
Carl was preceded in death by his parents, John and Ella Wahl; maternal grandparents, Ehard and Addora Johannesen; paternal grandparents, Carl and Elise Wahl; his daughter, Vivien Pritchard; and several aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sturgis FFA, local projects supported by Olive Branch #47, and Rushmore German Club.

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 Erskine Room  
in the church basement immediately following the funeral service.*

*We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

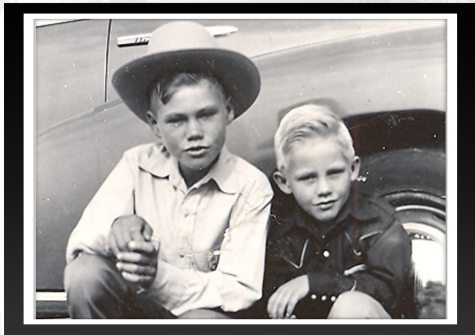
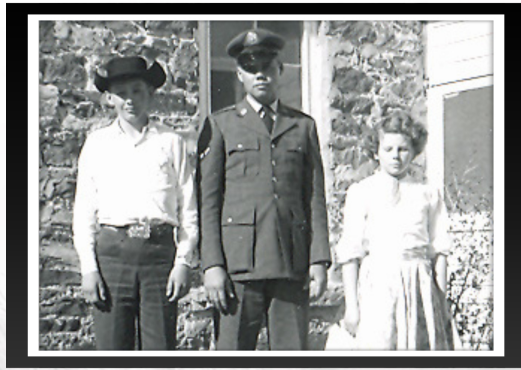


*In Loving Memory*

Carl John Wahl

July 2, 1938 ~ March 4, 2019





#### *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 Memory Of* **Carl John Wahl**

*Date of Birth*  
July 2, 1938  
Quinn, South Dakota

*Date of Death*  
March 4, 2019  
Rapid City, South Dakota

*Service*  
Monday, March 11, 2019 at 11:00am  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*Clergy*  
Pastor Harold Delbridge

*Musician*  
Chet Murray

*Songs*  
"Go Rest High on That Mountain"  
"Jealous of the Angels"

*Special Readings*  
Sara Cummings ~ Valerie Wahl ~ Marley Vuleta ~ Megan Long

*Pallbearers*  
Connor Custis ~ Ivan Wahl ~ Jack Wahl ~ Kelly Cummings  
Matthew Brink ~ Nate Brink ~ Ryan Brink ~ Travis Brink

*Masonic Rites*  
Olive Branch #47 AF&AM

*Military Honors*  
Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

*Place of Interment*  
Bear Butte Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota