



James Miller McGinnis was born the oldest son of Elmer and Mae (Miller) McGinnis on May 5, 1929 in Norfolk Nebraska.

Raised in Wisner, Jim spent his youth working in his father's drug store, exploring the outdoors, hunting upland game birds and waterfowl, playing sports and ice-skating. Jim and some of his boyhood friends once ice skated 16 miles on the Elkhorn River from Stanton to Wisner! Graduating from Wisner High School in 1948, Jim was an outstanding athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. During the summers, Jim worked and played baseball for the Wisner Town Baseball Team.

After high school, Jim and a boyhood friend, Herman Dinklage Jr., attended Kemper Military School in Boonville, MO for one year. The lessons Jim learned there about leadership, teamwork, discipline and accountability would serve him well during his professional career. Jim transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for one year majoring in agriculture. Jim was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity while at UNL.

With the Nation at war in Korea, Jim put his college education on hold to enlist in the United States Air Force in 1951. However, not wanting to put the courtship of his high school sweetheart on hold, Jim and Bonnie Jean Luther of Wisner were married at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Wisner on June 21, 1951. For two years of military service during the Korean War, Jim took his war-time bride with him on assignments to Dow Air Force Base in Bangor, Maine and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. With the armistice that ended the fighting in Korea, Jim was honorably discharged from military service in 1954. Jim and Bonnie returned to Wisner to live, work and raise their family.

Jim worked at Cornhusker State Telephone Company, a subsidiary of Continental Telephone Company, for over 20 years. Starting as a lineman and telephone repairman, Jim rose to regional manager acquiring and managing independent telephone companies across four mid-western states. For many years, Jim also owned and operated a livestock operation buying and selling cattle and raising hogs.

In the late-1980s, Jim moved to Deadwood, SD and worked in facility management at Black Hills State University. He and Bonnie moved to Deadwood full time in the late 1990s enjoying their cabin in Spearfish Canyon.

Wherever he lived, Jim was an involved and active public servant. In Wisner, he served multiple terms on the Wisner City Council, Wisner-Pilger School Board, Spearfish Canyon Owners Association and Spearfish Canyon Fire Protection District. He was also active in the Wisner Lyons Club and the American Legions of both Wisner and Deadwood. He and Bonnie belonged to and were active in the Wisner Christ Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lead, SD. One of his most fulfilling contributions to the communities in which he lived was Jim's leadership and involvement in the establishment of Veterans Memorials in Wisner at the Dinklage Park and in front of the Deadwood Court House.

Jim is survived by his wife of 62 years Bonnie (Luther); son Mike McGinnis of Omaha; daughter Jean (Jim) Carberry of Kailua, HI; 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; and sister Sally Chilsom of Lincoln, NE; and sister-in-law Joell McGinnis of Cozad, NE. He is preceded in death by parents Elmer and Mae (Miller) of Norfolk, NE; brother Howard of Cozad, NE; and son Scott of San Marcos, TX.

Jim was a devoted son to his parents, brother to his siblings, husband to his wife Bonnie, father and grandfather, friend and mentor to many, and servant to his Nation and to the communities in which he lived and worked. Jim was a man who enjoyed life to its fullest and will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.



### *Remember Joy*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I am free!*

*I followed the plan God laid for me.*

*I saw His face, I heard His call,*

*I took His hand and left it all...*

*I could not stay another day,*

*To love, to laugh, to work or play;*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way.*

*And if my parting has left a void,*

*Then fill it with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss...*

*Ah yes, these things I, too, shall miss.*

*My life has been full, I have savored much:*

*Good times, good friends, a loved-one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief –*

*Don't shorten yours with undo grief.*

*Be not burdened with tears of sorrow.*

*Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.*



*In Loving Memory Of*  
***James Miller McGinnis***

***Born***

May 5, 1929  
Norfolk, Nebraska

***Died***

February 4, 2014  
Fort Meade, South Dakota

***Funeral Service***

Monday, February 10, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.  
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

***Officiating***

Pastor David Baer

***Musicians***

Danny Kane

***Musical Selections***

"Amazing Grace"  
"In The Garden"

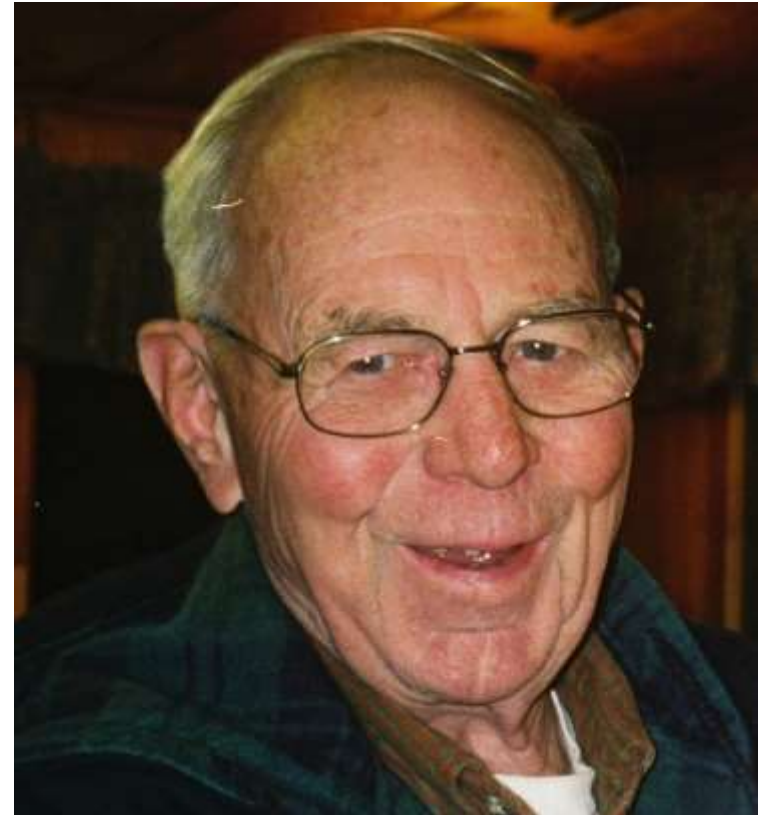
***Pallbearers***

Danny Kane ~ James Carberry ~ Lynn Nemminga  
Matthew McGinnis ~ Jack Wanstead ~ Gary Bennett

***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at Easyriders  
Saloon immediately following the committal service. We thank you for  
your presence and condolences.*



*In Loving Memory of*

***James Miller  
McGinnis***

*May 5, 1929 - February 4, 2014*