

Close The Gate

*For this one farmer the worries are over,
lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough,
put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace.
The fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family,
worked the land well and always followed the Son,
hang up your shovel inside of the barn;
your work here on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded,
and here now is the end of your day.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by
blessed rain one final time.
You always believed that the good Lord would provide
and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven;
no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.*



Please use this QR Code to view Jim's
online obituary, slide show, and guestbook.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF James “Jim” Koepke

WHO WAS BORN

January 21, 1962
Milbank, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

January 25, 2026
Milbank, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, January 31, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CLERGY

Pastor Chris Davis

MUSICIAN

Nancy Meyer, Organist

SPECIAL SONGS

“Amazing Grace”
“Lead Me Home” - Jamey Johnson
“How Great Thou Art”

ACTIVE URN BEARER

Austin Koepke

INURNMENT

Milbank City Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Jim's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Following the service, please join the family for a time of
fellowship and refreshments in the church dining area.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

James "Jim" Alton Koepke was born on January 21, 1962, in Milbank, SD, to Darlowe and Wanda (Hanson) Koepke. He was baptized and confirmed at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank. Jim attended school in Milbank, graduating with the Class of 1980. In his younger years, Jim was an active member of the 4-H program, where he showed Shorthorn cattle alongside his brothers. Following high school, he milked cows for Harlan and Mary Bohn and attended Mitchell Technical College, studying agriculture. After completing his education, he returned to the Koepke family farm. On Valentine's Day in 1995, he was united in marriage with Karen Radermacher.



Farming was Jim's passion, and he took great joy in raising Angus cattle on his own and grain farming both with Todd Lounsbery and independently. A hard worker, he also dedicated 28 years to the night shift at United Hardware.

Jim especially enjoyed time spent with family and friends, including "Friday night brat nights" and a "cold one" at the shop with Jacque and Claire Frazee. He also enjoyed afternoon coffee visits with the Mortons. He looked forward to the annual Black Hills hunting trip with Scott Pinkert and Terry Meister, where he acquired his nickname, "Bogus Jim". For many years, Jim took pride in hosting Fourth of July barbecues at the farm. He was known as a kind, soft-hearted, simple man of few words, and he will be missed by many. Most of all, Jim cherished the quiet and peaceful nature of farm life.

He is survived by his mother, Wanda Koepke of Milbank, SD; special friend, Doree Rylander of Milbank, SD; brothers: Dylan Koepke of Highmore, SD; Gerald "Jer" Koepke of Stockholm, SD; and Garold "Lars" Koepke of Stockholm, SD; sisters-in-law: Deb (Cletus) Frank of Willmar, MN; Mary (Steve) Winther of Ortonville, MN; Brenda Schmieg of Big Stone City, SD; Jenny (Scott) Pinkert of Milbank, SD; Pam (Todd) Lounsbery of Revillo, SD; Kim (Randy) Eisenschenk of Milbank, SD; and Malea Radermacher of Willmar, MN; brothers-in-law: Allen (Linda) Radermacher of Franklin, MN; Jeff (Barb) Radermacher of Bird Island, MN; Bill (Becki) Radermacher of Franklin, MN; Tim (Janice) Radermacher of Hector, MN; Greg (Kay) Radermacher of Fairfax, MN; and Jim (Jennifer) Radermacher of Willmar, MN; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Darlowe Koepke; beloved wife, Karen (Radermacher) Koepke; brothers: Wayne Koepke; and Greg "Jr." Koepke; nephews: Tyler (Miranda) Koepke; and Zach Radermacher; parents-in-law: James and Marlys Radermacher; and brother-in-law, Randy Schmieg.

