

## James Arthur Eatherton

James A. Eatherton, 92, of Sturgis and formerly, Whitewood, died peacefully at home Sunday, September 1, 2019, after attending church. His wife of 68 years, Marian J. Eatherton, preceded him in death in January. He is survived by three daughters, Laurie Warfel (Yankton), Debra Leonard (Arlington, VA), and Gwen Brandfass (Sedona, AZ); and three grandchildren.

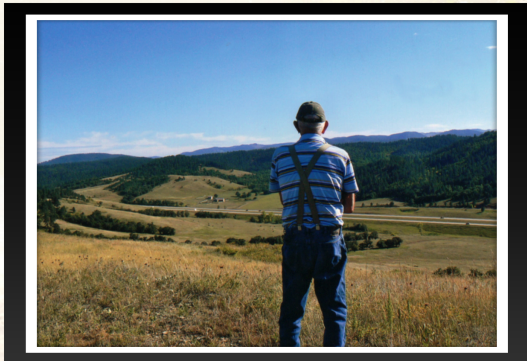
Jim retired in 1982 after a 30-year career with the Ft. Meade VA Medical Center Fire Department. He and his brother, Bob, worked together on Bob's ranch in Whitewood Valley until it was sold in 1990. Jim volunteered as a firefighter with the Whitewood Volunteer Fire Department. He and Marian left the Whitewood home they built together on property adjacent to the house where Jim grew up, and moved to Sturgis in 2015. They were members of Whitewood and Sturgis First Presbyterian Churches, where Jim served as an Elder for many years.

The youngest of Fred G. and Anna Mae (née Lubbers) Eatherton's children, Jim is preceded in death by his siblings, Vernon, Ray, Harold, Robert, William, and Eva (Peak).

He was a veteran of WWII, enlisting in the U.S. Navy in October, 1944, and serving as a Gunner's Mate 3rd Class aboard the destroyer USS Rowan, which was en route to Japan when VJ Day was declared. He was discharged in 1946.

Jim was passionate about his garden and maintaining his yard. He was a keen observer of weather and loved playing Cribbage and Pinochle with his friends, daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in Jim's memory to the Whitewood Volunteer Fire Department.



Condolences can be sent to [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com)

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the church hall following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



*In Loving Memory*

**James Arthur Eatherton**

**July 27, 1927 ~ September 1, 2019**



# *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

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I could not stay another day  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at close of day.

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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 will miss.

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Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savoured much,  
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

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Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me  
God wanted me now:  
He set me free.



## *In Memory Of* **James Arthur Eatherton**

***Date of Birth***  
July 27, 1927  
Tyndall, South Dakota

***Date of Death***  
September 1, 2019  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Memorial Service***  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Officiant***  
Reverend Paul Henschen  
Reverend David Brandfass

***Musicians***  
Brenda Schaffer Chris Kaitfors  
Ray Kaitfors Kelsey Kaitfors Ginni Brandt

***Musical Selections***  
"Eternal Father" "Go In Peace" "For the Beauty of the Earth"

***Honorary Urn bearers***  
Jeff Warfel Ned Leonard David Brandfass  
and all other friends

***Military Honors***  
Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Final Resting Place***  
Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota