

Gerald Dean Niederwerder, a wild, determined, story-telling cowboy, passed away at the age of 75 on September 24, 2023, in his favorite place: home.

Gerald was the first of nine children, born to Ernest "Ernie" and Nona (Harris) Niederwerder on the first of September 1948. He grew up on the family farm/ranch near Hereford. His early years were spent stealing the baby bottle from his little brother Greg and later pulling his wagon around the place, no doubt imagining it was a diesel truck with two shifting levers - which, until his last day, was the way he believed trucks "should oughta be built."

He attended the Doyle School for eight years and was part of the last graduating class before the "new" Hereford School was built in 1962. He attended Sturgis High School during his freshman year, then transferred to New Underwood High School, where he met his Dolly, Michaela Libertain. After their marriage on May 26, 1968, the new pair settled in on his Grandpa Olin's and Grandma Cordie's ranch at Haydraw, the only home they ever knew.

They spent 55 years there together, ranching and trucking. For if ranching was Gerald's profession, trucking was his passion. He hauled cattle, hay, and grain for neighbors for decades, but his happiest time was hauling bulls for Lee Crowser to rodeos across western South Dakota. Gerald and Michaela eventually bought some bucking bulls of their own, too. They welcomed their only child, Marty, into the operation on December 20, 1972.

2003 was the beginning of the many health issues Gerald would experience and never really recover from. Marty, Heather, and the girls moved back out to help on the ranch. During this time, his youngest granddaughter, Jaclyn, stayed home with Gerald, and he got to take her to pretty school (pre-school). This was something that Gerald always remembered fondly. It was a good life; the only things Gerald hated were droughts, automatic transmissions, politicians, and most doctors. But he loved riding in the Days of '76 parade and talking on the phone with his good friends and his siblings about the good old days. In the last few years, he had taken to reading his Bible. His family is comforted knowing he can enjoy Heaven with a full breath of air and no "danged oxygen tank."

Gerald is survived by his wife, Michaela; his son, Marty and wife, Heather (Hall); granddaughters, Paige Meinen (Lane), Lexxy Phillips (Dylan), and Jaclyn; great-grandchildren, Dustin, Gabriella, and Beau Meinen, and Dax, and Aurora Phillips; brothers, Greg (Eileen), Roger (Marilyn), and Galen (Donna); sisters, Nancy Simons (Grant), Melody Boydston (Ross), and Kim McMillan (Paul); sister-in-law, Liz (Bob) Venhuizen; numerous nieces and nephews.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Rodney, and Ricky; and niece, Katie Niederwerder (Seth).

In lieu of flowers memorials have been established to the Hereford Fire Department, Rural Meade County Ambulance, Enning Fire Department, and the Central Meade County Community Center.

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

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship
and lunch, following the service.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*

In Loving Memory Of



Gerald Dean Niederwerder

September 1, 1948 ~ September 24, 2023

A broken mold....

Not one to chase after riches of his own
A better friend could not be known

He'd say lets have a drink
The cap of the bottle gone in a blink

Years ago when fun with a neighbor was to be had
A wife or two might have ended up mad?

Telling memories of these times gone by
Would put a sparkle in his eye

So many stories he loved to tell
Historic details he remembered oh so well
If you didn't remember it quite the same way
No that's not right he would say

Proud of his son, but not one to gloat
He loved watching, and instigating, all his grandkids too I might note.

His love was gentle and quiet for those in his life
Friends and family, but especially his wife

Stubborn might not describe him much at all
But try changing his mind, success in this I cannot recall

He treated his animals with special care
No matter the critter.... Cows, cats, or his precious mare.

He was patient when help he might need
As long as you could do it right away indeed!

When you'd see him out and about
You'd recognize him without a doubt

His signature white shirt and black vest, Levi's,
black cowboy hat, and boots so tall
Hello he'd say to one and all

We will miss the voice so loud and deep
But the treasured memories we will keep

So hold us close dear Lord we pray
Until we meet again some day

In Loving Memory Of

Gerald Dean Niederwerder

Born

September 1, 1948
Hereford, South Dakota

Died

September 24, 2023
New Underwood, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Central Meade County Community Center
Union Center, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Harold Delbridge

Musicians

Caden Smiley Chastity Julson Paige Meinen
Lexxy Phillips Jaclyn Niederwerder

Special Music

"I Will Praise You in the Storm" "Remember When"
"Grandpa, Tell Me About the Good Old Days"
"Waltz Across Texas"

Pallbearers

Dana Thompson Monte Reichert Shane Delbridge
Kyle Barry Rick Lee Grady Matt

Honorary Pallbearers

Darrel Wilcox Bob Barry Rod Barry
Kenny Lee Steve Barry
All His Friends, Family, and Neighbors

Final Resting Place

Boneita Springs Cemetery
Boneita Springs, South Dakota