

Darwin "Hank" Kurtz

Hank was born February 26, 1946, to Darrel and Cora (Jensen) Kurtz in Groton, SD. He attended elementary and junior high school at Joan of Arc school, a half mile from the family farm and graduated from Groton High School in 1965.

He joined the United States Air Force after high school and served as a flight crewman for medical evacuations during the Vietnam War. While stationed at McCord AFB in Tacoma, WA, he met the love of his life, Joyce, and they spent 49 years in marriage until his death.

They moved back to Groton, SD, where he worked on the family farm until 1974, when he enrolled in the Denver Automotive and Diesel School studying diesel mechanics. After completing his degree, he returned to SD and worked as construction and feedlot foreman for Delzer Construction in Spearfish. Hank opened D.G. Kurtz Trucking and ran his company for many years. In addition to over the road trucking, he loved to help family and friends doing any projects and building things. He spent many hours working with his children and grandchildren sharing his skills and knowledge. He was completely devoted to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Darwin "Hank" Kurtz, 71, of Whitewood, SD, lost his battle with cancer on February 5, 2018. After a brief but fierce fight, he passed away in the hospice unit in the VA hospital at Ft. Meade, SD.

He is survived by his wife Joyce; children, Laura (Dennie) Clausen, Everett, WA, Deb (Ted) Bartunek, Rapid City, SD, and Bill (Jen) Kurtz, Chamberlain, SD; grandchildren, Adria (Dale) Gohman, St Cloud, MN, Megan (Justin) Long, Red Owl, SD, Andrew Aker, Ft. Benning, GA, Trevor Bartunek, Phoenix, AZ, Austin Bartunek, Rapid City, SD, and Autumn and Ainsley Kurtz, Chamberlain, SD; great-grandchildren, Jerika, Keaton, and Tavin Gohman, and Lexi, Leigha, Drew, and Dawson Long; sisters and brothers, Karon Kurtz and Duane Kurtz of Aberdeen, SD, Shirley Simon, Yuma, AZ, Lois (Victor) Schwahn, San Jacinto, CA, Connie Olson, Rapid City, SD, and Dennis (Sue) Kurtz, Claremore, OK; one aunt, Abbie Jensen, Spearfish, SD; and numerous nieces and nephews across the country.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Myrtle.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the VA Quilting Auxiliary at Ft. Meade, SD.

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



The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the committal. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



In Loving Memory Of

Darwin "Hank" Kurtz

1946 ~ 2018





In Loving Memory Of
Darwin "Hank" Kurtz

Born

February 26, 1946
Groton, South Dakota

Died

February 5, 2018
Ft. Meade, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Friday, February 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Whitewood, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor David Baer

Accompanist

Joanne Baer

Soloist

Chris Kaitfors

Musical Selections

"The Old Rugged Cross" "How Great Thou Art"

Pallbearers

Andrew Aker ~ Justin Long ~ Trevor Bartunek
Austin Bartunek ~ Ted Bartunek ~ Dennis Clausen

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

