



“Cowboys Last Request”

*Let me tell you folks
Who have gathered here today
That I'm a proud and thankful cowboy
Who has just passed away
I know it's hard
But, please don't cry
Fer I'm now ridin' God's trails
High up in the sky
The hoss I'm ridin' now
Don't spook, buck or kick
Fer God stables perfect horses
And now I have my pick
Lord, please forgive me of all my sins
Fer I haven't been perfect
But I know that he who believes in You
Forever wins!
I have lived a good life
A cowboys dream come true
Thank you Lord,
Fer I'm now ready to ride into eternity
Me, my horse, and You.*

*In Loving Memory
Darrell A. Kemnitz
February 10, 1954 - June 13, 2024*





Darrell was born on February 10, 1954, in Cavalier, ND to Gerald and Patsy Kemnitz. He graduated from Cavalier High School in 1972 and then attended University of Minnesota Crookston and also Auctioneer school. He farmed around the Cavalier area and raised cattle on the Bell Plain Farm.

He married his high school sweetheart, Karen Tongen, and together they raised two children, Ryan and Rachel. Darrell enjoyed his cattle and perhaps could be called the "cattle whisperer." He knew the particulars of each cow past and present from his herd. He was deeply involved with showing cattle at the Pembina County Fair, now sharing that passion with his grandchildren. He continued to

stay involved in the fair and 4-H long into his adult life, helping with the premium sale every year. He often talked about his friends out in Western North Dakota as the "real cowboys." Marty Robbin's songs, cowboy hat and boots, horses in the corral, cows in the barn—yes, Darrell loved and lived the cowboy lifestyle. He helped host trail rides as the rides did what Darrell loved—bringing people together with animals, showcasing beautiful scenery, and developing lifelong friendships.

It is said the cowboy code is simple: be tough, be honest, be fair. Darrell followed that code and added his own fourth component: be appreciative of family and friends. Darrell welcomed people from all segments of society, age, and professions. He met each person as an individual and valued relationships. Darrell loved to visit and tell stories. He could tell the best jokes that always ended with him giggling the most! And yes, it was a giggle!

Darrell and Karen were a team and that was seen in how they raised their family, cared for their grandchildren, and built their farm. Darrell and Karen did not do a random job but did everything with care and thoughtfulness. They made sure that there were horses, cattle, and other critters for the grandchildren on the farm so they could experience the life that had impacted their parents. It was a well-thought-out process of transferring ideas from one generation to the next as values were taught and experiences shared. Darrell was a humble man, but his pride shone through when he was with his family. His wife, children, and his grandchildren were his pride and joy.

Surviving Darrell are his wife of 47 years, Karen, son, Ryan (Jenna) Kemnitz, daughter, Rachel (Marcus) Ramsay, grandkids: Ava, Henry, and Everett Kemnitz, and Nora and Jade Ramsay; Father, Gerald Kemnitz; Siblings: Kathy (Chuck) Fisher, Linda (Lynn) Paulson, Nancy (John) Jenson, Duane (Shawnda) Kemnitz, in-laws: Joel (Loretta) Tongen, Connie Graham, Becky (Lynn) Ault, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his mother, Patsy, in-laws, Clair and Joyce, and brother-in-law, Dick.

Darrell A. Kemnitz, 70, of Cavalier, ND, passed away Thursday, June 13, 2024, at his home.

"Oh, the last goodbye's the hardest one to say. This is where the cowboy rides away."

FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, June 20, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

United Lutheran Church

Cavalier, North Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Jessica Merchant

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Old Rugged Cross" - Alan Jackson

"Through the Years" - Kenny Rogers

"The Cowboy Rides Away" - George Strait

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Darrell's Grandchildren

INTERMENT

Peters Cemetery

Cavalier, North Dakota

