


## JERALD "JERRY" ALFRED VANCE

was born August 13, 1956 in Williston, ND. He was the sixth of seven children born to Dennis and Neoma (Moen) Vance. Jerry grew up on the family farm south of Wheelock, ND. He attended grade school in Wheelock and graduated high school from Ray, ND in 1974. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and was awarded Honor Graduate from the Security Police Academy. He went on to serve in the Air Force SAC-91st Combat Support Group/ 91st MSS from 1975-1979 and continued his service in the Army National Guard's 191st MPs (1979-1980). Jerry married Debra "Debbie" Arnsen in 1981 in Williston. They were blessed with three children, Michelle, Wendy, and Austin. Jerry started a job with National Oil Well in 1989, which relocated the family to Cortez, CO. They were transferred back to North Dakota in 1990 where they have made their home in Dickinson since. Jerry worked various jobs in his life. Some of his most memorable were working as a Deputy Sheriff for Williams County Sheriff's Department, the oil fields, National Park Service at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and was most recently employed at BNSF Railway. He worked in the Engineering/Track Department and was a BMWD Safety Assistant until his retirement in 2018 after 27 years of service. Jerry enjoyed fishing, collecting and restoring various items including gas pumps, old toys, and pedal cars. He was also a skilled wood and leather worker, a master of studying family history, and he loved going to Corvette Rally's. Jerry never met a stranger and found value in getting to know everyone he met. He took pride in teaching his children his various skills, talents, and love for a handmade project. His gifts were thoughtful and masterfully crafted from either wood, leather, a restored collector's item or antiques. Jerry was a member of the American Legion, a union member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, and Track Department of the Teamsters. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Debbie of Dickinson; daughters, Michelle (Doug) Michaels of Westminster, MD, Wendy Vance of Bismarck, ND; son, Austin (fiancé Chantel Pokorny) Vance of Rapid City, SD; grandchildren, Ethan, Tristan, Bryan, Arabella, Ryan, and Bodhi; brothers, Lavern (Julianna) Vance of Ray, Meryl (Donna) Vance of Big Arm, MT; sister, Bonnie (Kalil) Barkie of Polson, MT; sisters-in law, Esther Vance, Sandy Vance (Lyle Sevre); numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; Dennis and Neoma Vance; brothers, Jerome, Dale, and Daryl Vance.



# Jerald "Jerry" Vance

August 13, 1956 - May 22, 2024



## Family Tree

A limb has fallen from the family tree  
I hear a voice that whispers,  
“Grieve not for me”  
Remember the best times,  
the laughter, the songs  
The good I lived while I was strong  
Continue my heritage,  
I’m counting on you  
Keep on smiling,  
the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest  
Remembering all...how I was truly blessed  
Continue traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your lives,  
don’t stare at the wall  
I miss you all dearly so keep up your chin  
Until that fine day we’re together again.



# JERRY VANCE

## FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, May 31, 2024 10:00 am  
Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota

## FAMILY RECEIVING FRIENDS

Thursday, May 30, 2024 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota

## OFFICIATING

Chaplain Cheryl Lantz

## PALLBEARERS

Austin Vance	Ryan Riordan
Doug Michaels	Bryan Michaels
Ethan Michaels	Tristan Michaels

## INTERMENT

Friday, May 31, 2024 3:00 pm CT  
North Dakota Veterans Cemetery  
Mandan, North Dakota

## MILITARY HONORS

Mandan VFW Post 707  
American Legion Post 40 Honor Guard

## ARRANGEMENTS BY

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Dickinson, North Dakota

*Lunch will be served in the fellowship room  
immediately following the funeral service.  
Everyone is welcome.*