

James William Melius was born August 22, 1945 in Faulkton, SD to Royal and Hollyse "Holly" (Pritchard) Melius. The youngest of their three children, he attended elementary school at Lafoon



country school until the 8th grade, when he entered the Faulkton school. After graduating high school he attended mechanic's school and played football at SDSTC in Springfield, SD where he met and married his wife,

Ellen Ireland, on June 27, 1965. They started their life together east of Faulkton, farming and raising livestock (just cows and chickens – Dad didn't want sheep and Mom didn't want pigs). Jim served many years on the Lafoon township board, several of them as chairman. Later he served 12 years on the Dakota Ag board in St. Lawrence.

Jim's love was farming and raising cattle. Later, he and Ellen went into partnership with his son, Keith, and his wife, Charlotte, farming and feeding cattle. In 2005 they purchased and then moved into the house that belonged to his late uncle Delos and Aunt Genevieve Melius. Jim was in the combine until the second to last day of fall harvest this year alongside his son, son-in-law, and granddaughters.

Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ellen; his children: Keith (Charlotte) of Faulkton, Jody (James) Stampe of Rapid City, and Lesli (Joshua) Jensen of Faulkton; his grandchildren: Sean, Johnathon, and Nicole Stampe of Rapid City and Brandi and Jori Melius of Faulkton; his sister, Sally (Robert) Dambacher of Sonora, CA; mother-in-law, Agnes Ireland of Faulkton; sisters-in-law: Judy Strachen of Mesquite, NV, Nancy (Howard) Hoffert of Bend, OR, and Carol Ireland of Olivet, SD; aunt: Joetta Swanhorst of Aberdeen, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Royal and Holly Melius; one older brother, Donald Melius; father-in-law, Wilfred "Pat" Ireland; brothers-in-law: Richard and Dennis Ireland, Tom Strachen, Tom Broderick, Ed Wagoner; sister-in-law, Marilyn Ireland; and one nephew, Derek Dambacher.



GOD MADE A FARMER

And on the 8th day, God looked down on
His planned paradise and said,
"I need a caretaker."

So God made

A FARMER

God said, "I need somebody willing to get
up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in
the fields and milk cows again.

I need somebody with arms strong enough
to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to
deliver his own grandchild. I need
somebody who'll bale a family together
with the soft strong bonds of sharing,
who will laugh and then sigh, and then
reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says
that he wants to spend his life 'doing
what dad does'."

So God made

A FARMER.

God hath not promised
Skies always blue
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.



Faulkton, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory
James "Jim" Melius

August 22, 1945
Faulkton, South Dakota

January 21, 2019
Faulkton, South Dakota

PRAYER SERVICE:

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019
United Church of Faulkton ~ Faulkton, SD

OFFICIATING: Rev. LeShae Avery

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE:

10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 24, 2019
United Church of Faulkton ~ Faulkton, SD

OFFICIATING: Rev. Jon Damaska

USHERS: Bob Hadrack and Larry Bowar

CASKET BEARERS:

Ryan Melius, Jay Melius, David Melius,
Dan Melius, Eric Melius, and Jack Holdren

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:

All of Jim's Grandchildren
Sean Stampe, Brandi Melius, Johnathon Stampe,
Jori Melius, and Nicole Stampe

PIANIST: Cheryl Tisher

SOLOIST: Chris Hammond

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"
"You'll Never Walk Alone"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"
"Because He Lives"

INTERMENT:

Faulkton Cemetery ~ Faulkton, SD

A Celebration of Life...
A Life Remembered



James Melius

Philippians 4:6 & 7 Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with
thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the
peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.