

In Loving Memory Of

William “Bill” Coppersmith

The Drive

**DRIVING DOWN A DESERTED
SECTION LINE WITH COUNTRY MUSIC
BARELY AUDIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND.
LISTENING TO NATURE SING IT'S OWN
SONG.**

**NATURE'S SONG IS THE GENTLE
BREEZE OF GOD, RUSTLES OF CORN
STALKS UNDER THE PICKUP, A JOLT
EVERY NOW AND THEN FROM A
GOPHER HOLE TO MAKE SURE WE
MAINTAIN COURSE, AND THE TALK
BETWEEN FATHER AND SON.**

**THE EYE OF GOD PEERS DOWN ON
ME AND WARMS MY SOUL AND LETS
ME KNOW THAT HE IS BY MY SIDE
FOREVER, AND WILL ALWAYS
PROTECT ME, JUST LIKE MY FATHER.**



September 10, 1945
Hastings, Nebraska

March 15, 2022
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

VISITATION:

6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Luce Funeral Home
Gettysburg, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 23, 2022
United Methodist Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIATING:
Pastor Jeff Adel

URN BEARER:
Brandy Coppersmith

FLAG BEARER:
Lee Coppersmith

PIANIST:
Marsha Kostboth

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:
“Amazing Grace”
“Old Rugged Cross”

*Military Honors will be at the church
after the memorial service by
the Gettysburg American Legion and VFW.

William "Bill" Andrew Coppersmith was born September 10, 1945 in Hastings, NE to John William and Dorothy Bernadean (Sickels) Coppersmith. He was baptized into the Methodist faith on April 14, 1946. Bill was raised in Pierre, SD until the 3rd grade when his family moved to Gettysburg, SD. He was part of the Gettysburg High School graduating class of 1963.

On August 23, 1963, Bill entered the United States Navy. He did a tour off the coast of Vietnam on the Mine Sweep USS Reaper. He served honorably until his discharge from active service on August 22, 1966.

Bill returned to South Dakota and went on to receive his education, thanks to the GI Bill, at Northern State College in Aberdeen, where he majored in Business and Computer Science. While in Aberdeen, he worked construction shingling roofs, pouring concrete, and he also worked at the bowling alley.

While at college, Bill met and later married Frances Keller. They were married in Milbank, SD on June 22, 1968. They lived in Aberdeen for a short time, completing their educations before returning to Gettysburg in 1971 to take over the operations of the family farm. Bill spent his life farming the land, enjoying the waving wheat and the smell of harvesting sunflowers. He was one of the first farmers to practice no-till farming.

Bill was a member of the American Legion, serving as commander during the addition of the annex. He also was president of the Gettysburg Country Club, and he was a member of the VFW, and served as both a leader and a cub master for the Boy Scouts of America. Bill loved to bowl, and he enjoyed coaching the young bowlers.

Bill was a long-time civil war reenactor. He inherited a reproduction Civil War cannon and attended reenactments large and small. He also did live fire, which involves shooting a round at a target. He especially loved passing this passion onto his children and grandchildren.

Bill also spent time hunting geese and pheasant, and fishing with his family. He dearly loved his children; however, his greatest joy came from time spent with his grandchildren.

Bill's life will forever be cherished by his wife, Fran of Gettysburg; children: Brandy Marie (Jon Hagenlock) Coppersmith, Andrew Franklin (Julie) Coppersmith, and Lee John (Bridget) Coppersmith, all of Pierre; his grandchildren: Anthony Johnathan Anderson, Connor Andrew, Lily Frances, Claire Lorraine, and William Gregory Coppersmith; and one sister, Marilyn Von Wald of Wilmington, DE.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Idonna Rae Wrightsman.

In Loving Memory **Bill Coppersmith**

1945 - 2022

