

**In Loving Memory**

# **Robert James Gesinger**

April 21, 1934

Dewey County, South Dakota

May 1, 2023

Ridgeview, South Dakota

**WAKE:**

7:00 p.m., Sunday, May 7, 2023

Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

**MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:**

10:30 a.m., Monday, May 8, 2023

Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:**

Fr. Brian Simon and Fr. John Paul Trask

**LECTOR:** Mike Bohnenkamp

**CASKET BEARERS:**

Austin Gesinger, Travis Tolbert,  
Jake Tolbert, Clayton Tolbert,  
Kelan Gesinger, and Blake Widvey

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:**

All of Robert's Family and Friends

**MUSICIAN:** Shiloh Oorlog

**VOCALIST:** Janal Biegler

**HYMNS:**

"Amazing Grace" "On Eagle's Wings"  
"On the Wings of a Snow White Dove"  
"Song of Farewell" "Pastures of the Lord"

**INTERMENT:**

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery  
Gettysburg, South Dakota

When you lived your life for others  
and you loved *without condition*  
When you made so many laugh and your  
*smile* won't be forgotten  
When you left behind an empty place  
that no one else can fill  
When the friendships that you shared  
long to be renewed  
When you built your life on hope  
and fulfilled it every day  
The *footprints* that you left behind  
will bring us face to face  
So, *goodbye* is not forever,  
You're only steps away.

**Robert James Gesinger** was born in Dewey County, SD, on April 21, 1934, to John and Rose (Fleck) Gesinger. He was welcomed by two sisters: Florence and Delores and was later joined by Kenny and Lucille “Louann”.

Robert spent his early years on the farm and ranch attending grade school in Ridgeview, which was five miles away. He started high school in Eagle Butte where he stayed in the dorms during the week. After a few weeks of being away from home, he decided enough was enough and jumped on the train in Eagle Butte that ran from Mobridge to LaPlant, Ridgeview, Eagle Butte, Faith and back again. He hopped off in Ridgeview and walked the five miles home. Once he got home, his dad was feeding cows and asked him what happened. Robert replied, “I quit”, so his dad said “OK”, handed him a pitchfork and told him to finish feeding the cows and then come to the house and he’d have more chores for him. That started his successful farming and ranching career.

In 1953, Robert met his future bride, Janet Kearns from rural Gettysburg. They were married at the Catholic Church at Old Cheyenne Agency on July 11, 1954. They welcomed six future workers: Roslyn “Kitty”, Roberta “Birdy”, Blaine, Kenny, Janelle, and Peggy.

In 1955, Robert and Janet moved to Moab, UT, where Robert worked as a driller. They relocated to Rawlins, WY in 1956. Robert would work 50 miles from home at camp during the week and come home on weekends. In June 1956, his father had a heart attack and the family returned to Ridgeview to help with the family farm and ranch. Here they welcomed their six children and Dory’s son David.

Throughout the years on the farm/ranch, Robert enjoyed roping, saddle broncs, and bull riding. He taught his children to ride horses, drive tractors, and work on the farm/ranch. He made sure his kids were well versed and able to care for themselves and those around them.

Robert was a man that helped his friends and neighbors. There wasn’t a person he met that was a stranger, many people have come the ranch to hunt and fish.

Those remaining to cherish Robert’s life are his wife, Janet of Ridgeview; children: Roslyn “Kitty” Webster, Craig, CO, Blaine (Deedra) Gesinger, Pierre, Kenny (Mary Kaye) Gesinger, Armstrong Co, SD, Janelle Gesinger (John Hilt), Las Vegas, NV, and Peggy Gesinger, Weatherford, TX; bonus son, David Krovoza, Williams, AZ; grandchildren: Courtney, Kelan, and Austin Gesinger, Logan (Blake) Widvey and Travis, Jake, and Clayton Tolbert; great grandchildren: Kiercen, Kahler, and Krue Gesinger and Rowan and Ruger Tolbert; and one sister, Louann Clark.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Rose; daughter, Roberta “Birdy” Tolbert; and three siblings: Florence Wamsley, Delores Kinsey, and Kenny Gesinger.

Memorials in Robert’s honor may be directed to the Potter County Library, 205 W Commercial Ave, Gettysburg, SD 57442, Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 27, Gettysburg, SD 57442, or Eagle Butte Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 1090, Eagle Butte, SD 57625.

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