

## *The Chain*

*We knew little that morning  
That God was going to call your name.*

*In life we loved you dearly.*

*In death we do the same.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,*

*You did not go alone,*

*For part of us went with you,*

*That day God called you home.*

*You left us peaceful memories,*

*Your love is still our guide:*

*And though we cannot see you,*

*You are always at our side.*

*Our family chain is broken,*

*And nothing seems the same,*

*But as God calls us one by one*

*The chain will link again.*

## **In Loving Memory Of**

# **Howard Elwin Boke**

*October 15, 1936  
Lebanon, South Dakota*

*June 24, 2023  
Pierre, South Dakota*

### **CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE**

*2:30 p.m., Saturday, July 1, 2023*

*United Methodist Church  
Gettysburg, South Dakota*

### **OFFICIATING**

*Pastor Jeff Adel*

### **CASKET BEARERS**

*Slaythe Petersen, Dylan Wager,  
Trae Petersen, Sean Voeller, Don Hericks,  
Bruce Schumacher, and Kelly Lockwood*

### **HONORARY CASKET BEARERS**

*All Parkwood Residents and Friends*

### **MUSICIANS**

*Donna Hanson, Dar Hofer, and Pastor Jeff Adel*

### **MUSIC**

*“On Eagle’s Wings”  
“Amazing Grace”  
“Daddy’s Hands”  
“Wabash Cannonball”*

### **INTERMENT**

*Gettysburg Cemetery  
Gettysburg, South Dakota*

**Howard E. Boke**, 86, of Gettysburg, passed away Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Avera St. Mary's Hospital, Pierre.

Howard E. Boke was born October 15, 1936, to Bill and Ruth (Oaks) Boke near Lebanon, SD. He was raised on the family farm near Lebanon and was one of the first babies to be delivered by Dr. E.H. Collins. Dr. Collins also delivered his daughters, Starla and Suzanne. He was baptized into the Methodist Church.

At 18 months of age, Howard was taken to the Aberdeen Hospital by his parents and Dr. Collins because of an abscess in his chest and was diagnosed with Polio.

He attended rural elementary school and a half day of high school. At the age of 9, the family home was lost due to a fire. His first job was picking potatoes near Lebanon. Wages for labor were paid by the bushel. He worked for different farmers and later for Roy Cass in the iron yards. He helped cut down bridges off of White River, cut up old steam engines, and the trains round house in Pierre. He worked for Art Todd, a farmer, and Chalmer and Jane Hottman when John Deere was located where the Firehouse is now. Chalmer built his new facility on the hill and Howard served 37 years with John Deere. There were new owners, the Cronin and Burwell families, for about 10 years before Howard retired.

Howard needed dialysis three times a week, so with winter coming, Howard and Gail moved to Parkwood Apartments in Pierre. They had a lovely apartment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with a view of the river. They would walk from dialysis to the apartment, but the walks became too much for him. He bought a walker and eventually an electric jazzy and enjoyed taking daily rides to the park and river.

Howard enjoyed sitting around visiting with the residents at Parkwood, playing cards, and putting puzzles together. He had good intentions of fishing as he hauled the fishing equipment around. He enjoyed going out to eat with groups from the apartment and trying many cafes. Above all, Howard enjoyed raising his three daughters who loved him very much, and spending time with his wife Gail whom he would have been married to for 60 years on July 21, 2023.

Howard is survived by his wife, Gail Boke; daughters: Starla (Duane) Wager, Seneca, Suzanne (Earl) Voeller, Rapid City, and Andel (Heith) Petersen, Pierre; grandchildren: Talisa (Aaron) Buchholz, Tulare, Dylan Wager, Seneca, Slayte Petersen, Spearfish, Trae Petersen, Minneapolis, MN, Kayla Petersen, Pierre, SD and Minneapolis, MN, and Sean and Abby Voeller, Rapid City.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents: William and Ruth Boke; brother, Gene Boke and sister, Eileen Worth.

