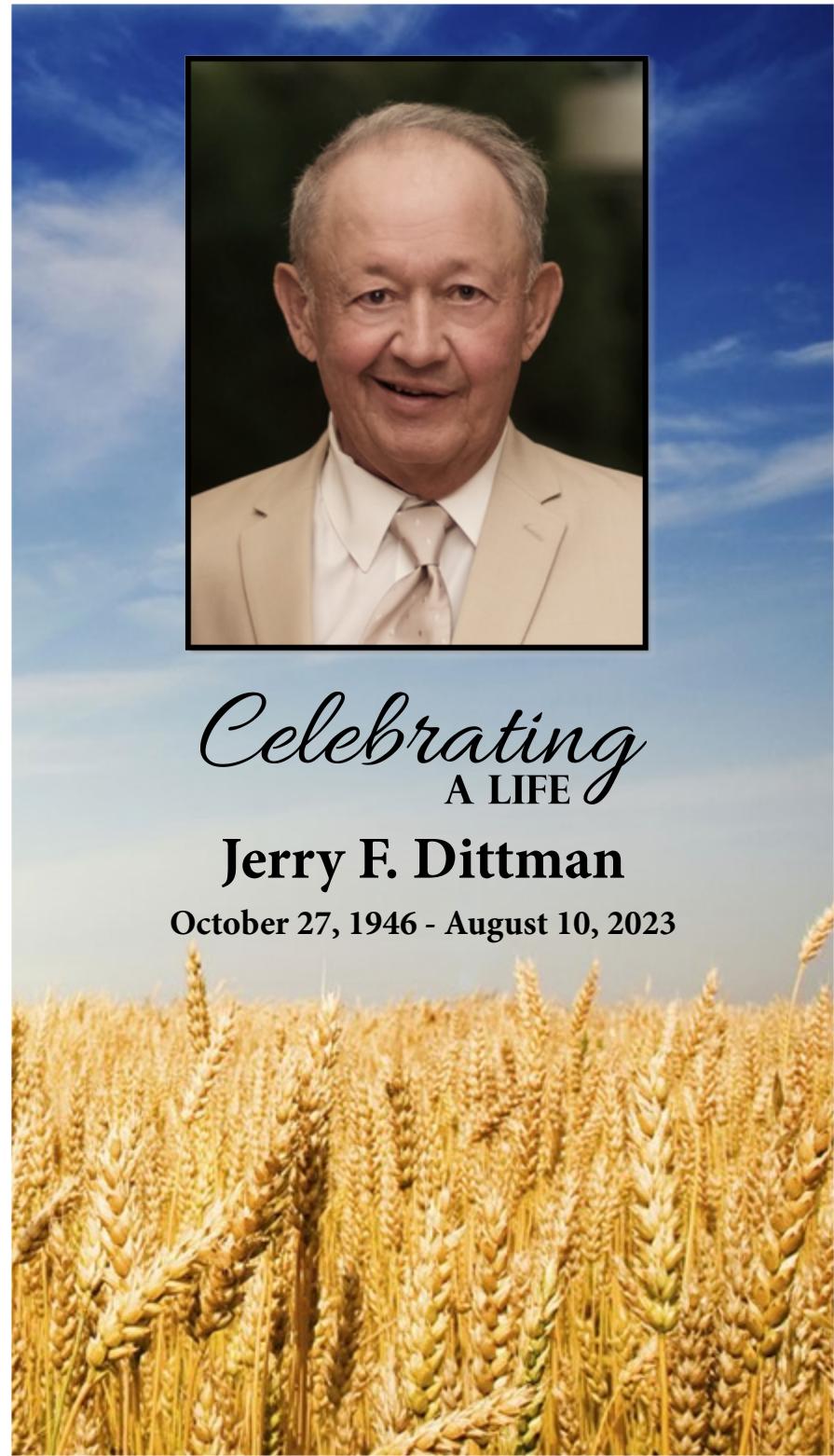


CLOSE THE GATE

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard, but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace. The fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life, often a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded, and here now is the end of your day.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin; the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by blessed rain one final time.
You always believed that the good Lord would provide and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down, no more sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven; no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

Nancy Kraayenhoef.



*Celebrating
A LIFE*

Jerry F. Dittman

October 27, 1946 - August 10, 2023

Jerry Dittman, 76, of Highmore, passed away Thursday, August 10, 2023, at Avera Heart Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Jerry Fritz Dittman was born in Pierre, South Dakota on October 27, 1946, to Fred and Pearl (Bawdon) Dittman. After Jerry graduated from Highmore High School in 1964, he attended automotive and mechanical trade school in Fargo, North Dakota in 1965 to pursue his passion for cars.

Jerry moved back to the home place to help ranch until he went back to school in January of 1968, in Spearfish for three years. Jerry then came back home to ranch again and built his own place in 1974.

In 1984, he had his first daughter, Danielle, and two years later his second daughter, Ashly, was born. Jerry was very involved in his daughter's lives, spending time at their Grandma Pearl's, taking family summer vacations, and attending every sporting event.

In Jerry's free time his hobbies included playing golf, shooting pool, bowling, and playing cards.

Jerry had a true love for farming and ranching, but his true passion was for cars. He liked collecting them and attending car shows. Jerry started the annual Old Settler's Car Show in 2008. He could talk and talk for hours about cars if you would let him. Going to the races was another favorite of Jerry's.

Jerry enjoyed his special times with his three grandsons. When they came to Grandpa's farm, riding in the tractor and on the four-wheeler were the highlights. He attended sporting events and always wanted to go to Pizza Ranch for supper.

His memory will be cherished by two daughters: Danielle (Nathan) Bekaert and Ashly (Ryan) Norman; three grandchildren: Logan and Landon Bekaert and Grayson Norman.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers: Justin and Jim.

Jerry Fritz Dittman

1946 - 2023

Prayer Service:

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2023
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Highmore, South Dakota

Funeral Service:

10:30 a.m., Thursday, August 17, 2023
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Highmore, South Dakota

Minister: Rev. Shari Schwedhelm

Casketbearers:

Nathan Bekaert - Ryan Norman
Joe Koeck - Jerry Koeck - Paul Koeck
Tim Zilverberg - Cody Schoultz - Randy Hague

Honorary Casketbearers:

Logan & Landon Bekaert
Grayson Norman

Music Selections:

"Amazing Grace"
"Go Rest High on that Mountain"
"Proud Mary"

Burial:

Highmore Cemetery
Highmore, South Dakota

Following the burial, everyone is invited to join the family for lunch and fellowship at the East Wing of the Auditorium.

Arrangements Entrusted To
Luze Funeral Home - Highmore, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net