

Wake and Rosary:

6:00 p.m., Friday, December 17, 2021
St. Liborius Catholic Church
Polo, South Dakota

Funeral Mass:

10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 18, 2021
St. Liborius Catholic Church
Polo, South Dakota

Celebrant: Father Randy Phillips

Casketbearers:

Casey Schlechter - Riley Mullaney - Henry Mullaney
Taylor Carr - Jay Jurrens - Josh Rensink
Mike Gilbertz - Brett Mullaney

Honorary Casketbearers:

All Gerald's coffee drinking,
card playing and tractor pulling friends

Lectors: Brandi Umberger
Tierney Culver

Giftbearers: Kayla Rensink - Brooke Carr
Ally Mullaney - Chelsey Schlechter

Eucharistic Minister: Mike Schaefer

Altar Servers: Jessie Coyle
Madelyn Saienga

Placing of the Pall: Phyllis & Duane Jurrens
Marvin & Mary Mullaney

Musicians: Ken Schaefer
Trixie Schlechter

Congregational Selections:

"Amazing Grace" #446
"I am the Bread of Life" #326
"On Eagles' Wings" #437
"Celtic Song of Farewell"
"How Great Thou Art" #432

Burial with military honors:

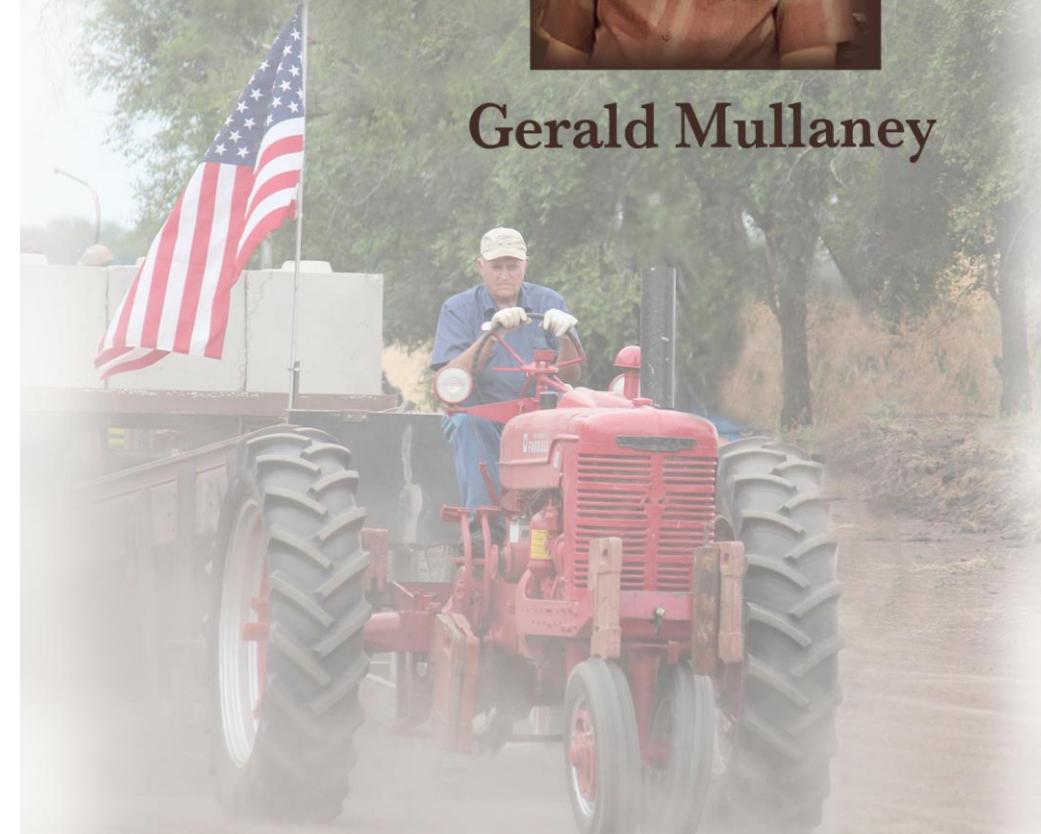
Mount Calvary Cemetery
Polo, South Dakota

*Arrangements Entrusted to
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net*

*Celebrating
A LIFE*



Gerald Mullaney



August 8, 1940 ~ December 11, 2021

Gerald Mullaney, 81, of Polo, passed away Saturday, December 11 at the Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller, SD.

Gerald Eugene Mullaney, born on August 8, 1940, was the second oldest of five children born to Leona (Naber) and Leonard Mullaney. He was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre, SD.



The family settled on a farm east of Polo where Gerald lived and farmed until his death. His early education included a nearby country school, before attending St. Liborius grade school in Polo. He completed his formal education by graduating in 1958 from Fairview High School of Polo.

Gerald worked for area farmers while also assisting on the family farm. Custom sheep shearing and silage chopping with and for many of his neighbors kept the farm going through the hard times.

On September 11, 1963, Gerald was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served 14 months in Puerto Rico as Military Police before receiving his Honorable Discharge on April 23, 1965. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves until September 10, 1969. He made long, lasting friendships that he treasured through to the end. He often enjoyed sharing some very entertaining stories of his experiences during his tour in Puerto Rico.

Gerald volunteered his time to drive the Polo basketball teams to their games with his father Leonard, who was an elementary teacher and coach at St. Liborius School.



In his free time, he enjoyed bowling in Miller and attended most any other sporting event in the area he could.

He married the love of his life, Margaret (Gilbertz), September 1, 1984. They remained on the family farm while enjoying some traveling and spending time with family in the Polo and White Lake areas. Their time together, although sweet, was cut short when Margaret passed in 1995 after a lengthy battle with cancer.



Gerald was a devoted caretaker, not only for Margaret when she was sick, but later for his mother Leona and aunt Laura Naber in their final years. He continued to farm with help from his niece, Sheila and Rob Schlechter and nephew Rob and Sandy Mullaney and their families. He was always available to help in any capacity and never hesitated to offer his wisdom. Gerald was always a wealth of knowledge regarding the history of the area and loved nothing more than proving someone wrong. He will forever be known as the fun uncle for his many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews and a new generation of great-great nieces and nephews, who quickly grew to love him.

Along with farming, he was a life-long member of St. Liborius Church, member of the Knights of Columbus and the Polo American Legion. In his retirement years, he enjoyed several very special summers of Old Time Tractor Pulls where he earned many trophies and, most importantly, cherished friends.

He will be dearly missed by not only his family but his many coffee friends in Orient and Miller, treasured neighbors and anyone he was able to start a conversation with seemingly at any place or any time. Most acquaintances soon became friends.

Left to celebrate his life are his sister, Phyllis (Duane) Jurrens; brother, Marvin (Mary) Mullaney; and brother-in-law, Michael (Barb) Gilbertz. Nieces: Sheila (Rob) Schlechter, Heidi (Brent) Wohl, Jennifer Gilbertz and Katie (Darren) DeNeui. Nephews: Rob (Sandy) Mullaney, Doug (Sallie) Mullaney, Jay (Stacie) Jurrens, Greg (Lura) Jurrens, Tom (Traci) Jurrens, Brett (Jill) Mullaney and Mike (Diane) Gilbertz. He was also cherished by 23 great-nieces and nephews and eight great-great nieces and nephews.

Joining him in heaven are his wife, Margaret; his parents, Leona and Leonard; infant sister, Maxine; brother, Duane and parents-in-law, Mike and Ruth Gilbertz.



Aerial view of the Mullaney farm and surrounding area.