

Tollef "LeRoy" Wangsness, 89, of Miller, passed away Monday, February 12, 2024, at Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller, surrounded by his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the family.

Tollef LeRoy Wangsness, son of Tollef and Etta (Engelmann) Wangsness was born February 23, 1934, in Miller, South Dakota. He attended Miller for his elementary and high school education and graduated from Miller High School in 1952. He joined the Marine Corps in 1953, where he served in the Marine Corps Marching Band and the Korean War. He left the Marine Corps in 1956.

Following his time in the Marine Corps, LeRoy returned to farming in Miller. On May 19, 1957, he married Miller High School's homecoming queen of 1956, Ardean Joyce Johnson (daughter of Walter and Alice Johnson). In 1965, Ardean was crowned Mrs. South Dakota. LeRoy and Ardean had three children: Kristi, Tolly, and Todd.

LeRoy loved his music. He was an accomplished piano and guitar player and played those instruments in a semi-professional band that toured the five-state area. LeRoy could sit down at the piano and play for hours from memory. LeRoy was always a hit at family gatherings! Everyone wanted to hear him play his piano and guitar.

He is survived by his daughter, Kristi St. Pierre; son, Todd (Arlene) Wangsness; brother, Orley Wangsness; grandchildren: Mitchell, Ty (Amber), Jordan, Brittany (Shawn), and Samuel; along with eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ardean (1989); son, Tolly (2012); sister, Rosemary (1996); granddaughter, Rachel (1992); father, Tollef; and mother, Etta (Engelmann).



Arrangements Entrusted to  
Luce, Luze & Reck Funeral Homes - Miller, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



# Tollef "LeRoy" Wangsness

February 23, 1934 – February 12, 2024

## **Celebration of Life:**

1:00 p.m., Friday, February 16, 2024

Reck Funeral Home  
Miller, South Dakota

## **Pallbearers:**

Arnold Johnson - Terry Johnson  
Curt Johnson - Lorin Johnson  
Dave Johnson - Bernie Rombough

## **Honorary Pallbearer:**

Wilbur Johnson

## **Burial:**

G.A.R. Cemetery  
Miller, South Dakota