

## I Know You'll Miss This Man

By Baxter Black

The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand "Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you'll miss this man. But, it's true what you've been hearing, Heaven is a real place. That's no small consolation. You should use that fact to face.

The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones and draw on it to ease your pain. For he is not alone. You see, all his friends are up here and all his loved ones, too, 'Cause it wouldn't be a heaven without each one of you.

And heaven for a cowboy is just what you might expect, It's horses that need tunin' up and heifers that need checked. It's long rides with a purpose and a code that lights the way and a satisfying reason to get up every day.

It's the ranch he's always dreamed of and never knew he'd find. And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind. Him, leanin' in the saddle with his ol' hat on his head, contentment set upon his face like blankets on a bed.

The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat. The bit chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet. And you somehow get the feelin' that he's sittin' on a throne Agazin' out on paradise just like it was his own.

I can promise you he's happy, though I know you can't pretend. You're glad he made the journey. It's too hard to comprehend. The earthly way you look at things can never satisfy your lack of understanding for the answer to the 'Why?'

So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest, I only take the top hands 'cause my crew's the very best. And I know it might seem selfish to friends and next of kin, But I needed one more cowboy and Don fits right in."

### Rosary & Prayer Service:

7:00 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2024  
St. Ann's Catholic Church - Miller, S.D.

**Rosary Leader:** Mark Nesladek

**Music:** "Hallelujah"  
by Maggie & Karly Knippling

### Funeral Mass:

10:00 a.m., Saturday, May 4, 2024  
St. Ann's Catholic Church - Miller, S.D.

**Celebrant:** Father Terry Weber

### Casketbearers:

Will Knippling - Jacob Knippling - Mike Dalzell  
Bill Davis - David Lang - Michael Lang

**Altar Server:** Gabriel Knippling

**Lectors:** Patti Werdel & Jack Friedel

**Giftbearers:** Will, Karly, & Maggie Knippling

**Eucharistic Minister:** Mallory Knippling

**Ushers:** Mike Hall, Randy Knippling, & Roy Knippling

**Musician:** Amber Kolousek

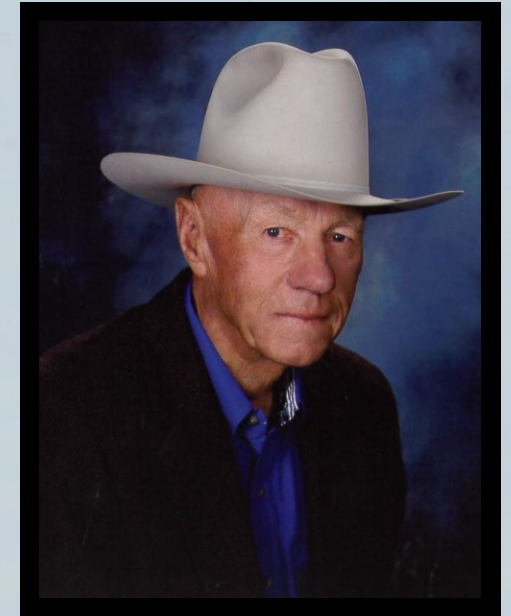
### Musical Selections:

"How Great Thou Art" #432  
"Go In Peace" #688  
"Give Me Jesus" #684  
Song of Farewell  
"Carry Me Home" #690

### Interment with Military Honors:

St. Placidus Catholic Cemetery  
rural Buffalo County, South Dakota

**Immediately following the funeral Mass, everyone is invited to the church fellowship hall to join the family for lunch.**



Donald Jerome Knippling  
June 29, 1934 - April 28, 2024



**DJ LAND AND CATTLE**



Donald J. Knippling, 89, of Gann Valley, passed away Sunday, April 28, 2024, at Good Samaritan Society in Miller.

Donald Jerome Knippling was born June 29, 1934 in Wessington Springs, SD, to Joseph Knippling and Eleanor (Etbauer) Knippling. He lived in Arlington Township, Buffalo County his entire life. He was the oldest of six children. He had two brothers, Jerald (Ardith) and Clayton (Evelyn) and three sisters, Genevieve (John Rank), Joyce (Ken Lawver), and MaryJo (Mark Joens). He grew up on the home ranch in Gann Valley, SD.

He attended grade school at Prairie Center School near his home, usually riding horseback to get there. His high school years were spent in Brookings, SD at the Agriculture School, which he completed in three years. Though he didn't appreciate being away from home, he made good friends.

At the age of 20, he was drafted by the United States Army and served from 1954 to 1956. He did his training at Ft. Leonard Wood Missouri. He was a specialist third class stationed in Panama where his unit trained other units in the art of Jungle Warfare. His memory of the humidity, snakes, bugs, sea sickness on the boats, and scouting pirate caves led to some interesting stories. The time spent on the east coast explains his distaste for "big city" life and traffic. What he was most proud of during his tour was when he received his Jungle Warfare Badges.

Donald was happy to get back to the ranch where he and his brother Jerry formed a partnership. They started a registered Hereford herd and they sold the first bulls at the Miller Sale Barn in 1958. The ranch expanded as did the cattle herd. In 1968, Donald along with his father, Joe, and brothers, Jerald and Clayton, formed a partnership and corporation which expanded to include each of the brother's two sons. Donald did most of the bookwork involved in registering the cattle and he always looked forward to the new crop of calves.

Donald was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church at Stephan, SD. He had a membership in the American Hereford Association, SD, Hereford Association, Saller Association, and the SD Stock Growers.

On May 16, 1959 he was joined in marriage to Mary Louise Johnson. From this union, 5 children were born: Allan, Gann Valley, SD, Suzanne Davis (Bill), Sioux Falls, SD, Jeanne, Rapid City, SD, Tim (Brandi), Huron, SD, and Jackie Dalzell (Mike) Pierre, SD.

Donald lived most of his life ranching on the northern ranch. He loved everything about it, especially putting up silage with his brothers, Jerry and Clayton, and driving his Baler.

You might have found him on the banks of the Missouri River, goose hunting or hunting for arrowheads. He has an impressive artifact collection and he had a good eye for finding these items. He loved metal detecting and fish, especially with his grandkids. He had a love for old country music.

His family, grandchildren, and his Catholic faith were the most important things in his life. He took great pride in the success of the family ranch for six generations.

Donald was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 57 years, Mary Lou; his parents: Joe and Eleanor Knippling; sisters: Genevieve Rank and Joyce Lawver; son in law, Durward (Woody) Lang; and three granddaughters: Natalie, Delaney, and Sydney Knippling.

He will be dearly missed by his five children and their spouses; 22 grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren.

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

