

Fawcett's ELMCREEK RANCH



*"Watching our kids grow up and show, whether they
were at the front or the back of the class was a win
for our family"* Keith Fawcett

*For this one rancher 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.*

Close the Gate (For Dad)
by Nancy Kraayenhof

Keith Robert Fawcett
October 22, 1959 - June 7, 2024



Arrangements Entrusted To

Luce, Luce & Reck
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

Keith Robert Fawcett, 64, of Ree Heights, passed away Friday, June 7, 2024, at Highmore Health, after an intense battle with cancer with his wife, Cheryl at his side.

Keith was born to Robert and Marjean (Diede) Fawcett as the third child of three, the only son and the 4th generation to thrive on the ranch, which would become known as Fawcett's Elm Creek Ranch. Showing cattle in 4-H, go carts, and dirt bikes filled his childhood with cousins and neighbors alongside the typical work that was to be done. He graduated from Miller High School in 1977 and pursued his secondary education at the school of hard knocks as he devoted his life to the ranch. He was quick to lift an eyebrow to any conversation that college was the only path to success.

Shortly after establishing himself at the ranch, Keith married Cheryl Busse in July of 1980 and began their family raising kids within the wide-open spaces of Green Valley. After his kids grew, it was time for the grandkids to run around the ranch and those grandkids gave him great joy. Being able to attend the activities of the older grandkids was a highlight for him and the thought of not being there to watch was something that weighed heavy on his heart. Their success in the show ring and sporting events made him proud. The younger grandkids always brightened his days, an example would be Marty who would spend time sitting on his lap watching sales on the computer and raising her hand to bid when he was no longer able to go outside.

As if the ranch did not keep him busy enough he was also active throughout many organizations: Hand County Livestock and Crop Association director for 25 years, Board of director for Western Jr Livestock Show, Keith and Cheryl were Jr Advisors for the South Dakota Junior Hereford Association 1994-2004, South Dakota Beef Breeds Council representative, helped initiate SD Hereford's involvement in Dakota Fest, hosted and organized SD Hereford Tours, Vice President of the SD Hereford Association, Hand County Ag Producer of the year 1999, National Hereford Board 2010-2014, 2017 Seed Stock Producer of the Year recognized by the SD Hereford Association, Honorary Member of SD Hereford Association 2023. All things Hereford and Juniors within South Dakota have felt his impact directly or indirectly.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Cheryl; children: Daniel (Kyla), Matthew, Erin (Adam) Kaufmann, and Kris (Weston) Kusser; six grandkids: Hollis, Ivy, Falon, Jensen, Marty, and Kal.; two siblings, Peg (Steve) Busse and Kim (Bill) Priest; and numerous nephews, nieces, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Marjean Fawcett.

In Loving Memory *Keith Robert Fawcett*

PRAYER SERVICE

7:00 p.m. • Thursday, June 13, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church

Miller, South Dakota

Song • "Amazing Grace"

sung by Darcy Pugh

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m. • Friday, June 14, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church

Miller, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Rev. Rhonda Wellsandt-Zell

PALLBEARERS

Arlen Harvey • Randy Johnson • Allan Knippling • Randy Knippling

Rob Knippling • Kent Reimann • Ed Werdel

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Keith's Herd

USHERS

Dennis Fawcett • Jeff Heasley • Joe Novotny • Dean Odden

PIANIST

Cleo Kleinsasser

VOCALISTS

Werdel Sisters

MUSIC SELECTIONS

"How Great Thou Art"

"Hallelujah"

"Dancing In The Sky"

"Spirit In The Sky"

SCRIPTURE

Phil Eggers

OBITUARY

Jan Busse

EULOGY

Daniel Fawcett

BURIAL

Morningside Cemetery • Ree Heights, South Dakota

Following the funeral service, everyone is invited to the Miller Community Center to join the family for a lunch.