



# In Loving Memory CELEBRATING A LIFE

**Prayer Service:** 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 25, 2024  
First Baptist Church - Miller, South Dakota

*"Me and Bobby McGee"*  
Dave Blachford, Jason Blachford, Ronette Stewart

*"How Great Thou Art"*  
Tanner DeHaai & Annie Fulton

**Funeral Service:** 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 26, 2024  
First Baptist Church - Miller, South Dakota

**Officiating:** Will Page

**Casketbearers:** Mark Fulton, Paul Fulton, Jim Jones,  
Mike Runge, Mick Resel, Jay Poindexter

**Honorary Casketbearers:**  
Cowboy Country Store Coffee Crew  
City of Miller Employees - Hand County Employees  
Ryan Resel - Dale Resel - MHS Class of 1957

**Pianist:** Janelle Jessen

**Special Music:**  
*"Go Rest High On That Mountain"*  
Tanner DeHaai & Annie Fulton

*"Daddy's Hands"* - Jason Blachford

*"In the Garden"* - Jason & Jenny Blachford

*"The Old Rugged Cross"* - Annie Fulton & Dave Blachford

**Burial with Masonic Services:**  
G.A.R. Cemetery - Miller, South Dakota  
Special Music: *"I'll Fly Away"*

# Hope Strength



# Celebrating A LIFE

## Ronald Ray Blachford

June 26, 1939 - November 21, 2024



For God so *Loved*  
that He *Gave* the world,  
His only  
begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in Him  
should not perish but have  
*Everlasting*  
- John 3:16 *life.*

Arrangements Entrusted To  
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)

Ron Blachford, 85, of Miller, friend to all, a stranger to no one, and a man with a heart of gold, went to be with his lord and savior on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at his home.

Ronald Ray Blachford was born on June 26, 1939, in Miller, SD to Raymond and Lorraine Blachford. Ron attended Ontario Country School through 8th grade before moving to Miller High School. Ron was a member of the Miller Hall of Fame and the undefeated 1956 Miller Rustler Football team. After graduating from Miller High School in 1957, Ron served his country proudly and honorably as a South Dakota National Guard member.

He married his high school sweetheart Marilyn Collins on October 29, 1957. Three children were born to this union: Ronette, Mark, and Jason. Ron and Marilyn farmed on the family homestead north of Ree Heights and moved to a farm closer to Miller in the summer of 1969. Ron and Marilyn later moved within the city limits of Miller to finish raising their family. When Marilyn passed away on May 27, 1999, the community responded with an outpouring of love and support that Ron never forgot.

Ron married Arlene Merxbauer on December 24, 2002. Ron and Arlene spent their time traveling and enjoying time with friends and their extended families. Arlene passed away on March 15, 2009, and the Miller community responded with another outpouring of love and support for Ron.

Ron was never a man to shy away from hard work. Throughout his life, Ron worked as a milkman, farmer, and ranch hand for Tex Fulton. Ron worked for Hand County before "retiring" in 2014 as the Highway Superintendent at the age of 72. Even after retirement, Ron didn't shy away from hard work. Ron could often be found blading township roads throughout Hand County. Ron also served as a volunteer firefighter, Mason, Shriner,

## Honor *Loving Memory*

city councilman, and Mayor of Miller which truly showed the love Ron had for his local community.

Ron was always able to find time to enjoy his favorite hobbies. Ron could often be found caring for the flowers at home, church, and other places around Miller. Ron enjoyed watching football and cheering on the Minnesota Vikings. Ron was an avid reader and could often be found with a history book in front of him on a quiet night. Ron was blessed with musical talent and would often be found entertaining family and friends while showcasing this talent. You would be hard pressed to find Ron smiling a bigger smile than when he was playing music or spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Those left to remember him include his daughters: Ronette and Vickie, sons: Mark (Belinda) and Jason (Jenny); grandchildren: Sarah (Lance), John, Keith (Brooke), and Hannah; great-grandchildren: Schelbie, Aubrey, Tanner, Bennett, Owen, and Harper; sister-in-law, Verna (Gene) Powers; special cousin, Dave (Joni) Blachford; aunt, Margaret Karrigan; beloved dog, Montana; granddog, Duke; and many cousins, and friends.

Those greeting him in Heaven include his parents; wives, Marilyn and Arlene; daughter, Deb Merxbauer; special uncles: George, Bill (Velma), and Donald (Barb) Blachford; great-uncle, Frank Blachford; brother-in-law, Peter Steckel; sister and brother-in-law, Marlene (Johnny) Blanksma; and son-in-law, Steve Stewart.