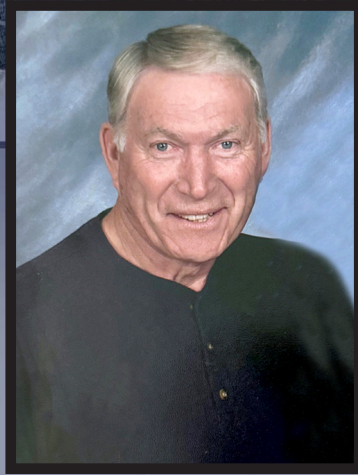


Celebrating the Life of

GARY LEE BATES, SR.

June 18, 1937 - April 5, 2026



MEMORIAL SERVICE WITH MILITARY HONORS

11:00 a.m., Friday, April 10, 2026

First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Allison Galbreath
Roger Day

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

“The Old Rugged Cross”
“Hymn of Promise”
“Spirit Song”

PIANIST

SuAnne Meyer

*The family warmly invites you for a lunch and
continued fellowship following the service.*

Gary Bates, Sr., 88, of Miller, passed away Sunday, April 5, 2026, at Highmore Health.

Gary was born on June 18, 1937, in Webster, South Dakota, to Harold and Leona (Siebrecht) Bates. He grew up with strong values of hard work, service, and community that would guide him throughout his life.

Gary proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1959. Following his service, he returned to South Dakota, where he built a life centered on family, work, and community.

On August 7, 1964, Gary was united in marriage to Barbara Hanks. Together, they made their home in Miller, South Dakota, where they raised their three children: Gary Jr., Bridgett, and Jamie.

Gary dedicated many years of his career to Ree Electric, where he was known for his strong work ethic and reliability. Outside of work, he found joy in giving back to his community, spending time on the golf course, and, most importantly, being with family and friends. He will be remembered for his steady presence, generous spirit, and the care he showed to those around him.

Gary is survived by his wife, Barb; son, Gary Jr. and his daughter, Megan (Jason) Weber; daughter, Bridgett (Charles) Augspurger and their five children: Austin (Amanda), Andrew, Jack (Brooke), Nelson (Molly), and Grant; son, Jamie (Autumn) and their three children: Elise, Cruz, and Max; eight great grandchildren: Kingston, Kiya, Sophia, Wells, Kit, Ace, Sonny, and Atlee; two brothers, Morris (Pat) Bates and Charles (Chuck) Bates; and one sister, Emily (Jack) Holm.

Gary's life was a reflection of quiet dedication, service, and love for his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Miller, South Dakota
www.luceluzereck.com