

Ken Kirby, age 90, traded his temporary home for his eternal home with his Lord & Savior on Monday, August 3, 2026, surrounded by family at the Avera Oahe Manor, Gettysburg.

Kenneth Lee Kirby was born at the Westphal Maternity Home in Gettysburg, South Dakota on September 12, 1935, to Lee and Lois (Blunt) Kirby of Lebanon. He spent most of his life five miles south of Lebanon. Ken attended Evergreen Country School and later Gettysburg Elementary School before graduating from Gettysburg High School in 1953. In 1957 he joined the National Guard for six years. He completed six months of active-duty basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

On February 24, 1962, he married Renea Umiker of Pierre, South Dakota. They made their home of 64 years at the family farm south of Lebanon. They were blessed with four children: Kevin Kenneth, Lee Allen, Kelly John, and Kari Lynn. In their early years, Ken and Renea enjoyed roller skating, bowling, and square dancing. Ken always enjoyed watching a good Western movie, especially one with John Wayne.

Ken had farming in his blood. He farmed and raised pigs, sheep, and cows – the latter being his love. Another favorite of his was baling hay and putting up silage. Neighbors knew him as a hard worker and early riser. They joked that no one could ever get to work before he did. Ken was very handy – he could fix anything. He was a mechanic, woodworker, and a creative welder. He built a hay rack and many other farm items, as well as kitchen cupboards and various furniture items.

Ken started every morning by reading his Bible and praying. He was a member of Grace Bible Church. He taught Sunday School, volunteered as a youth leader, helped with Awana, and served on various boards at church. He and Renea hosted Bible studies in their home for many years and touched many lives through their faith.

He was a 4-H leader when the kids were young and served on the Lebanon Equity Elevator board.

Ken was a prankster at heart. He had a lot of fun playing jokes. He woke up overnight guests using fireworks, offered drinks with a “fly in the ice cube,” and even enjoyed joking around with the nursing home staff during his final eleven months. He loved fireworks and every Fourth of July was like Christmas for him. He had a quiet personality with a caring, generous heart. Ken was selfless and always put others first. His love for Renea was evident to all, and they were often seen holding hands. He always had a smile on his face.

Ken is survived by his children: Kevin (Lori) Kirby of Barry TX, Lee (Pam) Kirby of Midlothian, TX, Kelly (Renee) Kirby of Gettysburg, SD, and Kari (Rick) Decker of Gettysburg, SD; his twelve grandchildren: Kendall Wolf, Kassie Rich, Jayd Kirby, Jody Kirby, Jason Andrada, Jeff Andrada, Brooke Johnson, Carson Kirby, Kolten Kirby, Cameron Swier, Calen Decker, and Logan Decker; twenty great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law: Theresa Kirby of Gettysburg, SD, Verna Fransen of Pierre, SD, and Bernadine Hinckley of Pierre, SD; and brothers-in-law: Eldon Umiker of Hot Springs, SD and John D. Umiker of Lebanon, SD.

Ken is preceded in death by his wife, Renea; his parents, Lee and Lois Kirby; brother, Francis Kirby; father-in-law and mother-in-law, John F and Marie Umiker; brothers-in-law, Harlan Fransen and Malcolm Hinckley; and sister-in-law, Marilyn Umiker.



In Memory Of
KENNETH KIRBY
September 12, 1935 - August 3, 2026





*God will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.*

*Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.*

*They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.*

--Psalm 112:5-7



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.luceluzereck.com

PRAYER SERVICE:

7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2026
Grace Bible Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE:

2:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2026
Grace Bible Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Rev. Logan Nyquist

GRANDCHILDREN SHARING:

Kassie Rich, Kolten Kirby,
Calen Decker, and Logan Decker

CASKETBEARERS: "GRANDSONS"

Jayd Kirby, Jody Kirby,
Carson Kirby, Kolten Kirby,
Calen Decker, Logan Decker,
Jeff Andrada, and Jason Andrada

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS: "GRANDDAUGHTERS"

Kendall Wolf, Kassie Rich,
Brooke Johnson, and Cameron Swier

USHERS: Bob Westphal, Todd Storer,
Chris Lenz, and Bryce Hall

MUSICIAN: Dorcas Storer

SONG LEADER: Cheryl Nelson

VOCALIST: Hannah Kirby
"On the Wings of a Dove"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:

"Amazing Grace"
"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"

BURIAL:

Gettysburg Cemetery
Gettysburg, South Dakota

*The family warmly invites you to join them
following the burial for refreshments
and continued fellowship at the church.*