

Served 1961 – 1985



Member VFW Post 1802  
Zumbro Falls, Minnesota

Richard "Charlie" Vernon Franz is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Myra (Watson) Franz, his sister-in-law, Linda Franz; his children, Barry Franz, Terry (Heather) Franz, Julie (Brad) Modisette, Chris (Terry) Newkirk; his cherished grandchildren, Jacob, Joshua, Riley, Kaley, Sarah, Jared, Jason, Christine, and Kaitlyn; and great grandchildren, Penelope, Paisley, and Peter.

Preceded in death by his parents, Ruby and Vernon Franz; his brother, Martin Franz; and his son, Michael Watson.

### Honorary Pallbearers

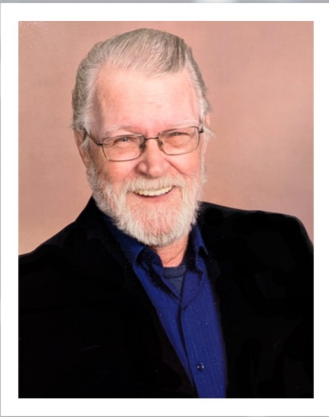
Jacob, Joshua, Riley, Kaley, Sarah, Jared, Jason, Christine, Kaitlyn



In Loving Memory

*Richard "Charlie" Franz*

December 5, 1942 ~ May 25, 2026



In Loving Memory

## *Richard "Charlie" Franz*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

June 9, 2026 ~ 12:00 PM

Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church

Piedmont, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor David Piper

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

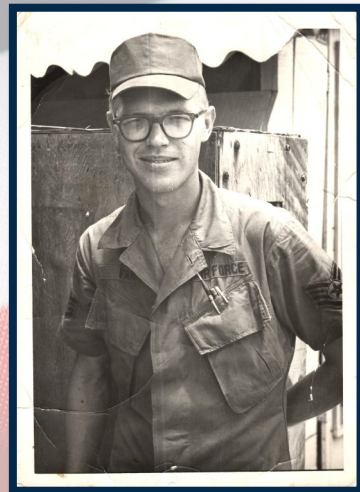
June 9, 2026 ~ 2:30 PM

Black Hills National Cemetery

Sturgis, South Dakota

MILITARY HONORS

Ellsworth Air Force Base Honor Guard



Richard "Charlie" Vernon Franz was born on December 5, 1942 in Lake City, Minnesota and passed away peacefully on May 25, 2026 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force retiring with the rank Master Sergeant after 24 years of dedicated service. During the Vietnam War, he served as a forward air controller at Bien Hoa Air Force Base with the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron, carrying out duties that required both courage and commitment.

Following his military retirement in 1985, Charlie made his home in Rapid City, where he built lasting friendships and pursued many interests and hobbies. He enjoyed Dutch oven cooking, auto restoration, camping, gun reloading, and competitive shooting sports, including Metallic Silhouette Shooting.

Charlie was also an important member of the church family at Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church. Among his proudest accomplishments was helping raise the church bell that had been brought from a church in eastern South Dakota through the efforts of his dear friends, Tim and Sheila Nold. Charlie also helped restore the bell's deteriorated wooden wheel, making it possible for the bell to swing once again — a lasting symbol of his craftsmanship, generosity, and devotion to his church community.

