

Lawayne Neil Reil of Corona, SD and Missoula, MT was born January 18, 1950, in Ortonville, MN to Roland and Caroline (Gerdes) Reil. He grew up on the family farm in Corona, SD. He was the second oldest of 6 kids.

He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran in Corona. He attended a one-room schoolhouse, and he would tell you he had to walk up hill, both ways, for 1 mile across the field in 2 feet of snow with bread sacks on his feet. He attended high school in Corona, where his practical jokes often got him in trouble, including an incident that blew up a toilet. He graduated in 1968. That same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Carol Kasuske. They had their daughter Jodie in 1970 and son Christopher in 1973.

He joined the Army National Guards in 1969, where he specialized in truck driving. In 1972, during summer training in the Black Hills, the Rapid City flood happened. Lawayne and his company were called to duty, and the truck he was in got washed away while on a bridge. Through his strength and determination, he was able to grab onto a tree, climb it, and tie himself to it with his belt. He was considered missing in action and presumed dead. They found him three days later dehydrated, exhausted and his entire body was pruned. For this, he received the South Dakota Medal of Valor. He was honorably discharged in 1975.

After the flood, he started driving milk truck locally. In 1978, he bought his first semi and went over the road long haul trucking- a career he loved dearly and that shaped everything in his life. While on the road in 1983, he met his second wife Jackie. They married in 1984 and lived in Montana. With this union, he gained his daughter Jamie. In 1985, they had their son Josh, and in 1987, they had their son Jared.

LaWayne continued trucking his entire life, and through this he gained many lifelong friends. His stops were often filled with visits with friends and family from all over the country. In his later years, he took the winters off and took on the important duty of being jolly Ol' St. Nick.

Even when he wasn't dressed up, little kids would refer to him as Santa.

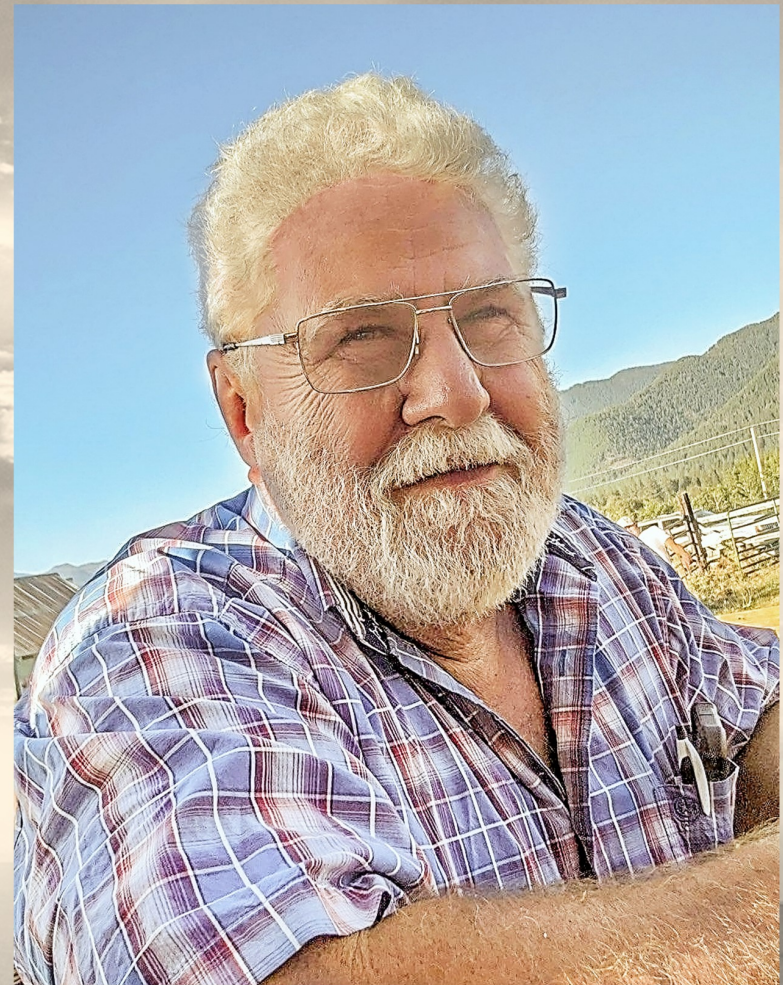
His sense of humor only grew as life went on. He was known by all for his wit and Reil logic. Even his grandkids were always prepared for what could come out of his mouth. His children and grandchildren were the light of his life! He enjoyed spending time with them and teaching them everything he could- both the good and the bad.

LaWayne took his final trip on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Like always, he knew exactly where he was going.

Roll on, 18-wheeler, roll on.

He is survived by his children: Jodie Reil of Fargo, ND; Chris (Tanya) Reil of Milbank, SD; Jamie (Jack) Sievers of Arlee, MT; Josh (Amanda) Reil of Missoula, MT; Jared (Bethanni) Reil of Missoula, MT; siblings: Rodney Reil of Milbank, SD; Dennis (Karen) Reil of Beloit, WI; Tim Reil of Jacksonville, FL; Kimberly (Reil) Burke of Ogden, KS; grandchildren: Derek (Amanda) Reil; Kristie (Kevin) VanHout; Ryker (Jessica) and Trey Reil; Brylee, Maylee, Colt, and Ryle Sievers; Elijah Martinez, Brooke, and Alison Reil; Karter, Karson, Korbyn, Kaidyn, and Kenzie Reil, great grandchildren: Brock, Kobe, Kaia, Lola, and Cecelia, several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Allen, grandson Drake, and great-granddaughter Kinley.



LaWayne Neil Reil

Jan 18, 1950 - April 3, 2024



A Trucker's Prayer

Oh Lord, be with me today as I head out into the open road, for I know not the dangers that this day may hold.

With a map by my side, oh Lord, let it be you that is my daily guide.

And as I head out to where the yellow line never ends, it sure is good to know that you will be riding with me once again.

And when I have taken my last load, there will be one final trip that I must take, one that will be on a road that is paved with gold.

And there I will rest, for there will be no more trips to take once I have entered heavens gates.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LaWayne Neil Reil

January 18, 1950 - April 3, 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, April 12, 2024 1:00 pm
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Milbank, SD

OFFICIANT

Pastor Chris Davis

ORGANIST

Kristy Tostenson

INTERMENT

Garfield Lutheran Cemetery
Rural Corona, SD

PALLBEARERS

Chris Reil | Josh Reil | Jared Reil | Jack Sievers
Derek Reil | Ryker Reil | Trey Reil | Elijah Martinez

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

His Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren
Kristie, Brylee, Brooke, Karter, Maylee, Karson, Alison, Colt,
Korbyn, Ryle, Kaidyn, Kenzie, Brock, Kobe, Lola, Kaia, Cecelia.

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion Birch-Miller Post #9
V.F.W. Grant County Post #3486
V.V.A. Northeast SD Chapter #1054
D.A.V. Chapter #19
Sons of American Legion Post #9

The family would like to thank everyone for the love and kindness shown during this time. Following the service and interment, please join the family for food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall.