

In Loving Memory

Marlin Michael Connelly

BORN

March 1, 1937
Wall, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY

June 17, 2026
Sturgis, South Dakota

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Monday, June 22, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

CELEBRANT

Father Timothy Castor

MUSICIANS

Barry Furze
Myron Volk

PALLBEARERS

Trevor Bitterman Jason Connelly
Shane Holmquist Tyler Holmquist
Ellroy Zaugg Quade Hoff Tyler Miracle

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Marlin's grandchildren

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Bear Butte Cemetery



In Loving Memory

Marlin Connelly

March 1, 1937 ~ June 17, 2026



Marlin Connelly, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and respected professional, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2026, in Sturgis, South Dakota, surrounded by his beloved family. Born on March 1, 1937, in Wall, South Dakota, Marlin lived a life marked by dedication, innovation, and a deep love for those closest to him.

Marlin's career was distinguished by his significant contributions to the field of aerospace and satellite communications. During his service in the United States Air Force, he

played a pivotal role in the initial installation of low flying radar systems, a critical element in national defense. Following his military service, Marlin advanced to work with Ford Aerospace (Philco), where he applied his meticulous skills in quality control for satellite communication towers and satellites. Notably, he oversaw the final quality control for the video transponder on the moon rover, a testament to his precision and dedication to excellence. Marlin's expertise extended beyond aerospace as he worked with several other companies, focusing on computer installation and repair, demonstrating his adaptability and technical proficiency throughout his career.

Beyond his professional achievements, Marlin was a man who cherished life's simple pleasures and the company of his family. He found joy in hunting and fishing, appreciating the quiet moments amid nature. Marlin had a passion for computers and creativity, often creating slide shows that captured memorable family moments. Traveling with his family was another source of happiness, as was his knack for telling a good joke, illuminating any room with his humor and warmth. His social nature made him a friend to many; he enjoyed engaging conversations and was known for his approachable and friendly demeanor.

Marlin's proudest accomplishment was being a faithful example to his family, a legacy he upheld with unwavering commitment. His love and devotion as a husband, father, and grandfather were the cornerstones of his life.

He is remembered not only for his professional contributions but, more importantly, for the kindness and generosity he extended to his loved ones.



Marlin is survived by his devoted children, Victoria Connelly, Patricia Jacobsen (with her husband, Richard), Randall Connelly (and his wife, Susan); along with nine cherished grandchildren: Alanna Lopez (Ismael), Tyler Holmquist (Hanna), Krista Miracle (Tyler), Shane Holmquist, Cynthia McCaffrey (Ryan), Allison Gammon (Colton), Trevor Bitterman (Miranda), Michelle Hoff (Quade), and Jason Connelly. He also leaves behind 18 great-grandchildren, Raymond, Caleb, Quincy, Nolan, Mara, Madisen, Marisa, Micah, Mackenzie, Madelyn, Dexter, Ellroy Marlin, Kayah, Grayson, Huntley, Levi, Andrea and Lucas who will carry forward his legacy. His surviving siblings include sisters, Marilyn Anderson and DeeAnn Keffeler; and brother, Michael Connelly. Numerous other relatives and friends also mourn the loss of this remarkable man whose kindness touched many lives.

Marlin was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Leona Connelly; his parents, Martha and Michael Connelly; twin grandsons, Brian and Michael Connelly; grandson, Phillip Zaugg; brother, Dennis Connelly; sister, Martha Sue Lewis; and one infant brother, George Connelly.

Marlin Connelly's life was one of quiet strength, devotion, and heartfelt connection. His memory will forever be treasured by those who knew him and loved him. He leaves behind a lasting example of faithfulness, hard work, and the enduring power of family.

