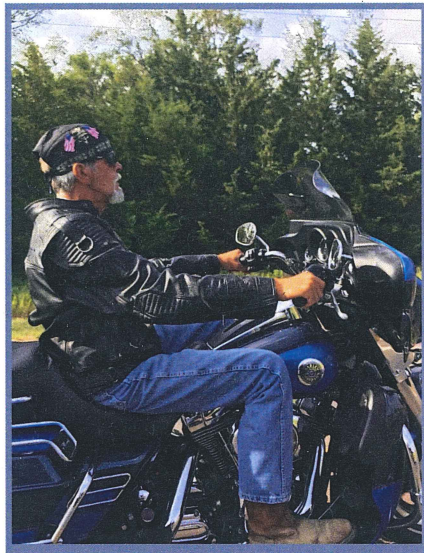


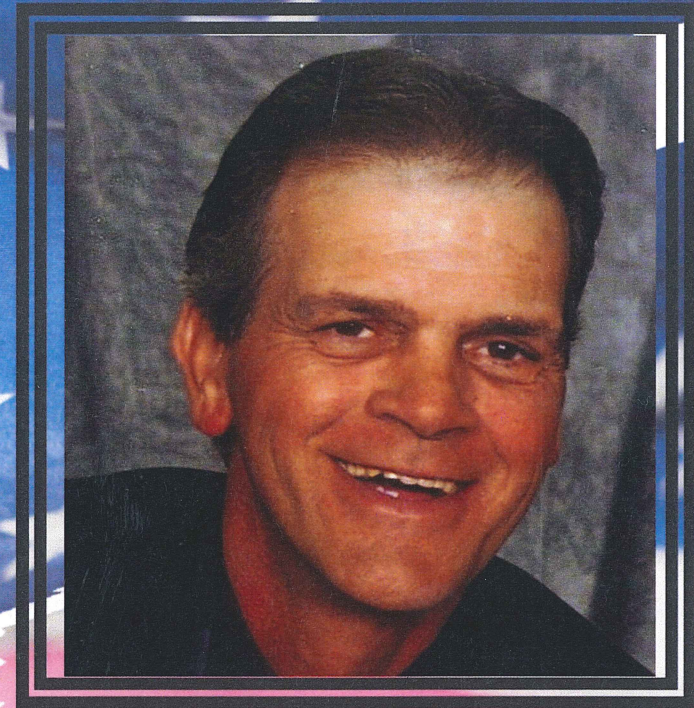
You are near,  
even if I don't see you.  
You are with me,  
even if you are far away.  
You are in my heart,  
in my thoughts,  
in my life,  
Always.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Mike wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the heartfelt prayers, support, and love during this time of bereavement.

# IN LOVING MEMORY



*Michael Allan Bilben, Sr*

*2.12.1958 - 5.16.2022*

Funeral Service  
Kimball Protestant Parish  
Kimball, SD 57355

WEDNESDAY // MAY 25, 2022 // 11 AM

In Loving Memory of  
Michael Allan Bilben Sr  
February 12, 1958 ~ May 16, 2022

Funeral Service  
Protestant Parish Church  
Kimball, SD  
11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Officiating Pastor Derek Runge

Scriptures  
Revelations 21:4; Psalm 34:4-5;  
Thessalonians 4:13-14

Honoary Palbarriers  
Sons: Mike Bilben, Jr; Matthew Bilben;  
Mark Bilben; Joe Bilben

Grandsons: Dillan Gough; Logan Reister;  
JayDee Gough; Jared Bilben; Ryder Bilben;  
Levi Bilben; Isaac Bilben; Myles Bilben

Military Graveside Rites  
SD National Guard Military Funeral Honor Guard  
Drips American Legion Post No. 130  
Kimball, SD

Interment  
Kimball City Cemetary  
Kimball, SD

Everyone is invited for lunch & fellowship back at  
the church following the committal service.

Arrangements By: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD

Michael A. Bilben, Sr. was born to Elvin & Betty Bilben on February 12, 1958 in Chicago, IL. Mike grew up on the south side of Chicago until the age of 15 when his family moved back to SD.

Mike attended high school in Sisseton and New Effington where he then met his future wife, Denise. Mike and Denise married and raised 6 children together; Amy, Jami, Mike Jr., Matthew, Mark, and Joe.

Mike held a few significant positions which started with his military career with the US Army, 454th Infantry Brigade, "Tanker Spankers". Mike appreciated the continued friendship Doug Noth and Tim Wilbur offered even after their years of service together.

Mike then was introduced to the world of sugar beets through his father-in-law, Claude Carl. In this position, he started driving trucks, running loader, and finally as manager of the East Grand Forks plant. During this time, he and his family did a lot of traveling around the country.

After deciding to settle back in SD with his family, Mike started his career in the ethanol industry. He began as a plant operator working his way up to the position of Operations Manager.

Mike and Denise made the decision to move to Kimball, SD to be closer to their grandchildren where he then began his final career in the construction industry.

Mike loved sports of any kind. He was a competitor to the core. If there was pressure for a challenge, he never backed down. He thrived on competition and seldom came out on the losing end. Some of Mike's favorite activities were bowling, golf, corn hole, yard games, video games, and softball. Softball held a special place in his heart because of the family he developed through the sport. The amazing Coors Light team welcomed his wife and kids, including the twins ready to be born, "Homer & Gomer", later named Matthew and Mark.

Mike had a passion for riding, whether it be a real horse or a steel horse, Mike liked to feel the wind in his face. He and his wife had many adventures that included their horses or their motorcycle.

Overall, Mike's greatest passion was his family. He loved his wife Denise to the very end. To Mike, there was nothing better than to sit around a campfire with her and their children listening to them talk and tell of their days, including the little competition his children started over who was his favorite. (I don't believe he ever answered that question.) More than anything he loved his grandchildren. Any moment he could spend with them was never passed up. Mike was a family man, and he loved them dearly.

Mike is survived by his wife Denise Bilben of Kimball, SD; children Amy (Bill) Gough of Kimball, SD; Jami (Lance) Reister of Streeter, ND; Mike Jr (Holly) Bilben of Jeannette, PA; Matthew (Laurie) Bilben of Kimball, SD; Mark (Sandy) Bilben of Kimball, SD; Joe (Raelee) Bilben of Plankinton SD. Grandchildren, Dillan & JayDee (Amy & Bill); Logan & Brooke (Jami & Lance); Dakota & Ryder (Mike Jr & Holly) Jared, Levi, Myles (Matthew & Laurie); Isaac & arriving soon (Joe & Raelee).

Preceding him in death were his parents Elvin & Betty Bilben; brother Elvin Jr; nephew Luke Arneson; father-in-law Claude Carl; grandson Tylor Gough.