"Life is strange. We come with nothing and fight for everything, And in the end, we leave everything and go with nothing."

Life is a fleeting journey, a cycle of gaining and letting go. We arrive with empty hands, yet we spend our days chasing, building, and holding on, as if we can outrun time itself. We grasp at love, success, meaning-desperate to make something of the brief moments we are given.

And yet, no matter how much we gather, there comes a day when we must release it all. But perhaps the beauty of life is not in what we keep, but in what we give, in the love we share, the kindness we leave behind, the lives we touch along the way.

In Loving Memory of

Earl Raymond Bailey

May 8, 1948 ~ March 13, 2025

Scripture Service
Christ The King Catholic Church, Presho, SD
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Funeral Services
Christ The King Catholic Church, Presho, SD
11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 20, 2025

Officiating
Father John Heying

Music
Rose Comp

Guest Book
Renee Miller
Cece Lillebo

"Amazing Grace" ~ "Wings Of A Dove"
"One Day At A Time" ~ "Song Of Farewell" ~ "How Great Thou Art"

Casketbearers

Ryan Bailey
Gaige Mortenson
Jacob Langenbau
Justyn Langenbau
Askia McChristian
Cade Mortenson
Victor Polacek
Levi Langenbau
Lanny Langenbau
Wyatt Mortenson

Honorary Bearers

Earl's Granddaughters

Ashley Whaley
Kayla Borucki
Brianna Bailey
Ashley Mortenson
Jodi Polacek
Karsen Mortenson

& His 15 Great Grandchildren

Interment
Holy Angels Catholic Cemetery, Presho, SD

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

***Arrangements By**: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD*

Earl Raymond Bailey was born May 8, 1948, to Elvin and Tracy (Janousek) Bailey and grew up with his 14 siblings at the family home north of Bonesteel. He passed away at Sanford Hospice peacefully on March 13, 2025.

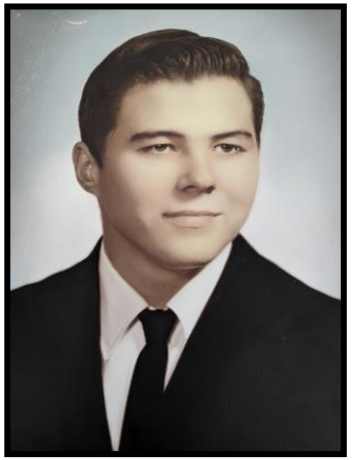
Earl attended Bonesteel Public School graduating in 1966. In 1968 Earl married Gladys Goethals. Five Children were born to this union, Monty, Alan, Anna, Chasity, and Tara.

Earl started trucking after graduation, which he was very proud of. He trucked until he retired in 2010. Out of boredom he returned to trucking for a local farmer for a few more years. Then to punish himself further he decided to become a school bus driver until he was called into the principal's office.

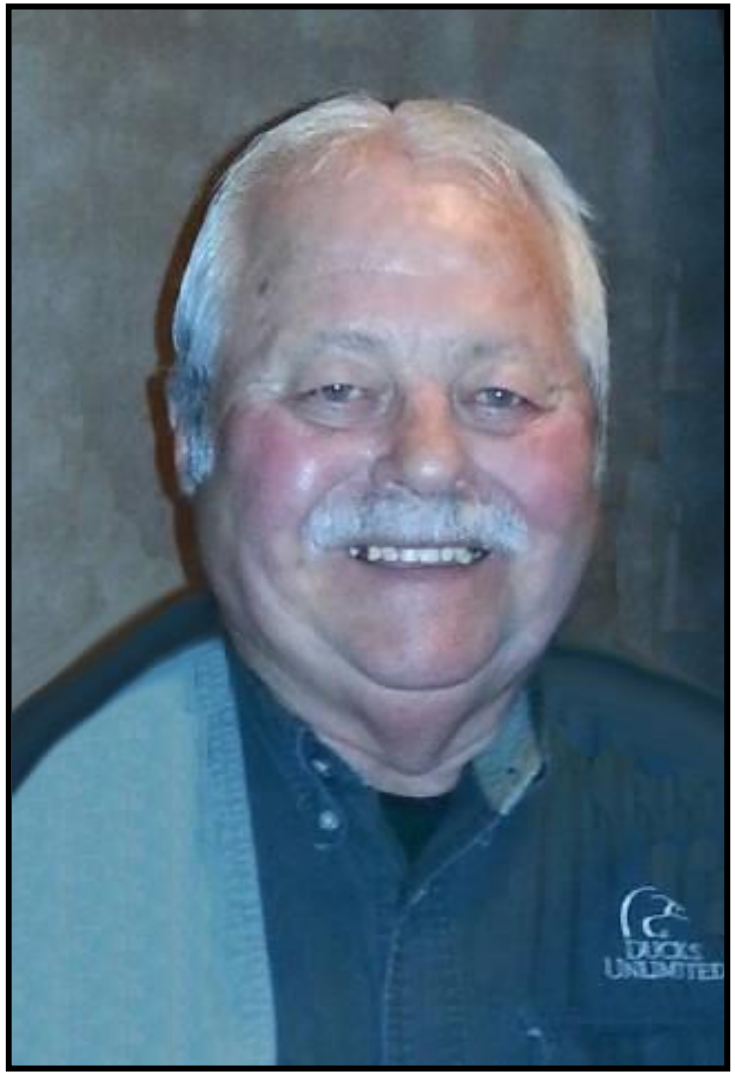
Earl met Tootie and they were married on February 12, 1993. They enjoyed fishing, traveling to see family, and going to the river.

Earl enjoyed everything outdoors from fishing, boating, hunting, riding his scooter, and of course the routine Bailey card and dice games. He loved being around family and friends. He loved spending time with his sidekick Hudson. He enjoyed cruising the countryside. He loved going back to Bonesteel to see family and go to the river for some good fishing. On a nice sunny day, you would find him sitting outside listening to music drinking a nice cold one.

Earl is survived by his wife Tootie, children/stepchildren Monty Bailey, Anna (Bob) Polacek, Chasity Bailey, Tara Bailey, Trever Mortenson, Kenda Mortenson, and Lance Mortenson. Grandchildren Ryan Bailey (Amanda), Ashley Whaley, Brianna Bailey, Jodi Polacek, Askia McChristian, Victor Polacek, Kayla Borucki, Gaige Mortenson, Cade Mortenson, Levi, Jacob, Lanny and Justyn Langenbau, Ashley, Wyatt, and Karsen Mortenson. 15 Great Grandchildren. His siblings Eben Bailey, Ruth (Gary) Lundberg, Leah (Roy) England, Sherrill Kinzie, Fred (Marilyn) Bailey and Don (Gay) Bailey. Sister-in-laws Karen Bailey, Margaret Ann Bailey, Charlene Nies, Deanna Sundall, Harriet Bailey and numerous nieces and nephews.



Earl was preceded in death by his parents, his children Alan Bailey and Crystal Mortenson, his siblings Mary Ballard, Judy Nolan, Dorothy Ferguson, Nola (Eldon) Nolan, Elizabeth (Ronald) Hoffman, Marvin Bailey, Rich Bailey, and Gayle Bailey. Sister-in law Patricia Louise Bailey, Mary Whipple, and Charlotte Mortenson. Brother-in-law Jack Leichtnam.



In Loving Memory Of

Earl Raymond Bailey

1948 ~ 2025