

In Loving Memory of
Aaron and Arlene Knaus



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Mundwiler Funeral Home
Milbank, South Dakota



CLERGY

Rev. Dr. DeVern Schwenn
Pastor Thom Bowsher

SPECIAL SONGS

“Amazing Grace” | “My God and I” | “How Great Thou Art”

ACTIVE URN BEARERS

Delaine Knaus | Deidra Knaus

HONORARY URN BEARERS

Stanley Knaus | Darwin Knaus

INURNMENT

Milbank City Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Aaron and Arlene’s family are grateful for your attendance at their service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota



Arlene Knaus

Arlene Delores Harms was born on February 3, 1930, at home in Roberts County, in Garfield Township, to Ibeling and Marie (Wiese) Harms. She was baptized and confirmed at the First Baptist Church in Corona, South Dakota. Arlene attended grade school in Corona and later graduated from the West Central School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota in Morris, MN.

On January 3, 1951, Arlene was united in marriage to Aaron Knaus in the parsonage of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Milbank, SD. They were blessed with sons: Delaine, Stanley, and Darwin. Together, they were active on their farm near Twin Brooks until retiring in 2003. They worked side by side—taking turns operating their two old John Deere combines. Arlene would load the combines while Aaron hauled the grain to the elevator.

Arlene had a passion for gardening and houseplants. She maintained a thriving garden, canning and freezing her produce each season. She also raised and butchered chickens. A skilled quilter and needleworker, Arlene crafted beautiful hand-sewn clothing and special gifts for loved ones. She was a devoted homemaker, known for her cooking and baking, especially her legendary homemade bread.

Family meant everything to Arlene. She always made time for her boys, creating lasting memories through fun activities and everyday moments. She was a source of love, support, and care for everyone in her family. Arlene's faith was a cornerstone of her life. She remained an active member of her church community through the years, attending the Evangelical United Brethren Church and later the Central United Methodist Church. Arlene was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her presence, warmth, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her loving husband, Aaron Knaus; three sons: Delaine (Jackie) of Brookings, SD; Stanley Knaus of Solomon, KS; Darwin Knaus of Twin Brooks, SD; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents: Ibeling and Marie; brothers: Elmer, Harvey, Marlyn, and George; and sister, Sylvia.



Aaron Knaus

Aaron Stanley Knaus was born on January 15, 1925, to Martin and Laura (Liebing) Knaus at the Milbank Hospital in Milbank, South Dakota. He was baptized and confirmed at Evangelical United Brethren Church in Milbank. Aaron attended country school in Kilborn Township through the eighth grade and later continued his education at Milbank High School. After completing his schooling, Aaron worked alongside his father on the family farm and also helped neighboring farmers. In 1948, he began renting a quarter section of land, marking the start of his own farming journey.



On January 3, 1951, Aaron was united in marriage to Arlene Harms in the parsonage of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Milbank. Together, they were blessed with three sons: Delaine, Stanley, and Darwin.

Aaron was a dedicated member of Central United Methodist Church, where he served in various roles, including Sunday School teacher, trustee, and superintendent. His commitment to community service extended beyond the church—he served on the local school board, the Kilborn Township board, and the Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for nine years.

In 1965, Aaron and Arlene began building their home, where Aaron maintained a small dairy operation and continued farming. A talented craftsman, he built custom cabinets for many customers over the years and enjoyed woodworking and creating metal art in his spare time. There was nothing he couldn't fix or make!

Aaron was a loyal and honorable man in everything he did. He was also a very loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be missed dearly.

He is survived by three sons: Delaine (Jackie) of Brookings, SD; Stanley Knaus of Solomon, KS; Darwin Knaus of Twin Brooks, SD; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: Martin and Laura Knaus; his beloved wife, Arlene Knaus; and brother, Kenneth.