

## **Arlow A. Gehrke**

Arlow was born February 10, 1942, at the Alsleben homestead in Minnesota. Arlow attended high school in Stewart, MN, and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church.

At the ripe age of 18, he left the family farm in Minnesota and joined the United States Air Force. Arlow was a MSGT in the Air Force where he was an airplane mechanic. He retired from the Air Force in 1987 after 28 years of adventures and service to his country.

Arlow married the love of his life, Betty Halvorson, in 1965. They have two wonderful daughters, Kimberly and Katherine, and four grandchildren, Blain, Brett, Kaitlin, and Khyler.

Arlow and Betty were stationed many places during his time in the Air Force, including Oklahoma, Anchorage, AK, Charleston, SC, and then back home to Ellsworth Air Force Base where they lived in Black Hawk, SD, for 38 years.

Arlow enjoyed many things in his life, such as being married to Betty for 48 years, spending time with his grandchildren and friends, geo caching, ATVing in the Black Hills, fishing, and of course hunting.

Arlow was a great influence to many people and never met a stranger. He helped many people in his life time. He always told his two daughters to pray, work hard, help people, and most of all "Pay Attention."

Arlow A. Gehrke, 71, passed away Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at the Fort Meade VA Hospice Medical Center after a courageous battle of esophageal cancer.

He is survived by his beautiful wife, Betty of Black Hawk; daughter, Kim Gehrke (Shawn Caekaert) of Rapid City; daughter, Kathy Smith (Austin Murtha) of Sturgis; grandson, Blain Willier (Danielle Langely) of Houston, TX; grandson, Brett Willier of Rapid City; granddaughter, Kaitlin Smith, and grandson, Khyler Smith, both of Sturgis; father, George Gehrke of Glencoe, MN; and sister, Junace Gehrke of Hutchinson, MN.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Mabel Gehrke of Brownton, MN.

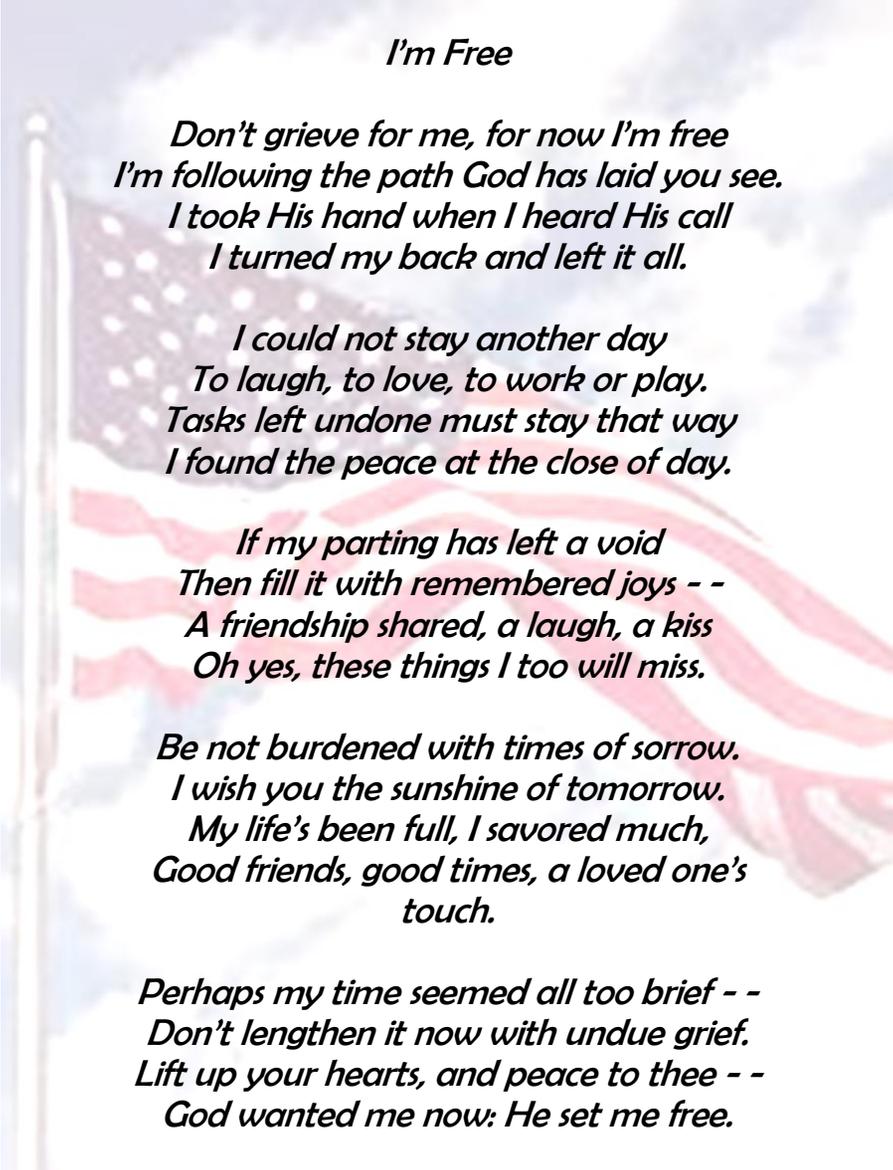
Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadeefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadeefunerals.com).



*In Loving Memory Of*

*Arlow A. Gehrke*

*1942 ~ 2013*



*I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard His call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys - -  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's  
touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief - -  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee - -  
God wanted me now: He set me free.*

*In Loving Memory Of*

***Arlow A. Gehrke***

***Born***

February 10, 1942  
Glencoe, Minnesota

***Died***

October 16, 2013  
Fort Meade, South Dakota

***Funeral Service***

Monday, October 21, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.  
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

***Officiating***

Pastor David Baer  
Colonel Terry Cronin  
Mr. Wayne Hess

***Musical Selections***

"Amazing Grace"  
"High Flight"

***Pallbearers***

Terry Cronin ~ Wayne Hess ~ Wesley Eades  
Lester Nelson ~ Bob Needham ~ Dave Utter

***Honorary Pallbearers***

Buck Nelms ~ Jim Costlow

***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota