

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Kelly Wayne Athey

WHO WAS BORN

September 18, 1960
Ortonville, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

May 22, 2026
Ortonville, Minnesota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Big Stone Tabor Church
Big Stone City, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Pastor Sandra Marquardt

MUSICIANS

Lisa Berdan, Accompanist
Hannah Vanderwal, Vocalist

CASKET BEARERS

Nick Athey | Jon Hintz | Dustin Hanson
Terry Gottschalk | Martino Cochran | Jackson Athey

HONORARY BEARERS

All of Kelly's Grandchildren:
Jaden | Jenna | Martino | Mia
MaKiyah | Mason | Marcus | Harlow

INTERMENT

At A Later Date
Greenwood Cemetery
Big Stone City, South Dakota

Kelly's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Following the service, please join the family for a
time of fellowship and refreshments in the church dining room.

Mundwiler & Larson Funeral Home - Ortonville, Minnesota

A Trucker's Prayer

*Oh Lord, be with me today as I head out into the open road,
For I know not the dangers that is day may hold.*

*With a map by my side, oh, Lord,
Let it be you that is my daily guide.*

*And as I head out to where the yellow line never ends,
It sure is good to know that you will be riding with me once
again.*

*And when I have taken my last road,
There will be one final trip that I must take,
One that will be on a road that is paved with gold.*

*And there I will rest,
For there will be no more trips to take
Once I have entered Heaven's gates.*

Kelly Wayne Athey was born on September 18, 1960, in Ortonville, MN, to Russel and Janet (Smith) Athey. He grew up in Big Stone City, SD, where he became a valued member of the community.

After graduating from Ortonville High School, Kelly enlisted in the United States Army, proudly serving for six years. It was his life dream to navigate the open roads as a truck driver, eventually owning and operating Kelly Athey & Son Trucking.

Kelly's life truly changed when he met the love of his life, Gayla Gottschalk. They married May 23, 1993, beginning a beautiful journey that spanned 33 wonderful years. Together, they built a loving family, and nothing brought Kelly more joy than spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Kelly was a member of First English Lutheran Church in Ortonville. He was the type of person who would go out of his way to help anyone in need, always wearing his own unique sense of humor and warm smile that lit up the room. He would often tell people that he was born in Cub Run, KY, on the Fourth of July: a joke he and his family fondly remember. Kelly had a soft spot for animals and formed connections with everyone he met.

Kelly is survived by his loving wife, Gayla Athey of Big Stone City, SD; his children: Ashley (Dustin) Hanson of Ortonville, MN; Brittini (Jon) Hintz of Valley Springs, SD; and Nick Athey of Big Stone City, SD; his grandchildren: Jaden, Jenna, Martino, Mia, MaKiyah, Mason, Marcus, and Harlow; sisters: Nancy (Arlyn) Birkholz; and Robin (Roger) Tietjen; brothers: Randy (Linda) Athey, Ronnie (Ginger) Athey, and Monty (Lynn) Athey; his mother, Janet Athey; his mother-in-law, Dorothy Aguilera Black-Bear; father-in-law, Galen Gottschalk; brother-in-law, Terry Gottschalk; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Russel Athey; and sister, Debbie Athey.

Please use this QR Code to view

Kelly's online obituary, tribute video, and guestbook.



In Loving Memory



Kelly Athey
1960 - 2026