

John “Jack” Charles Barnes was born on August 28, 1943, to Harold and Helen (Kosse) Barnes in Milbank, SD. He graduated from Milbank High School and went on to serve in the United States Air Force, receiving an honorable discharge in 1965. On October 22, 1966, Jack married the love of his life, Diane Gertsema, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank. Together, they shared 56 wonderful years of marriage and were blessed with two children: Ronald and Jacqueline.



Jack worked at Dakota Granite in Milbank for nearly 40 years. He was known for his strong work ethic, innovative ideas, and friendly personality. A talented and creative man, Jack could design, build, and repair anything he set his mind to. One of his most cherished accomplishments was crafting, entirely by hand, a magnificent Christmas display that became a beloved Milbank tradition. Many still remember those displays with fondness. Jack was also famous for his sense of humor, often crowned the “king of bad jokes.” He loved making people smile and always had a joke ready to share. In his free time, Jack enjoyed working on puzzles, indulging his sweet tooth, and spending time with his family over treats like donuts or strawberry shakes from Hardee’s, especially with his granddaughter, Terra. He had a love for the outdoors, particularly when accompanied by his beloved dogs, and he could often be found watching his favorite shows on the Game Show Network.

Jack is survived by his devoted children: Ronald “Ron” Barnes of Milbank, SD; and Jacqueline “Jackie” Barnes of Wilmot, SD; his granddaughter, Terra Barnes; sister, Joyce (Jerry) Van Hout of Milbank, SD; and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Diane; his parents: Harold and Helen (Kosse) Barnes; sister, Billie Vissers; and brother, Dan Barnes.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

John Charles Barnes

WHO WAS BORN

August 28, 1943
Milbank, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

December 13, 2024
Milbank, South Dakota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, December 28, 2024
2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Milbank VFW - Milbank, South Dakota

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Ron Barnes | Jackie Barnes

APPRECIATION

Jack’s family is grateful for your attendance at this Celebration of Life. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.

Please use this QR code to access
Jack’s online guestbook.



I am With You Always

*I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.*

*When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.*

*So grieve a while for me if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust;
It is only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away, for life goes on - -
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you cannot see me or touch me - I will be near.*

*And if you listen with your heart, you will hear,
All of my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I will greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home."*

