

**M**arty Jo Buttke was born on February 20, 1950, in Milbank, SD, to Eldred and Alma (Fischer) Buttke. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Corona, attended school in Corona, and graduated in 1968. Growing up, Marty helped his family with daily chores, especially milking cows, a task he often described as peaceful. After graduation, he worked at Dorale Electric in Milbank for a couple years while also completing home electrical courses. Though he did not finish the program, he continued to use his electrical skills to help with wiring projects on weekends.

In 1972, Marty began his lifelong career as a stone cutter at Dakota Granite, where he worked faithfully for 43 years until his retirement. Retirement didn't slow him down, however, Marty enjoyed staying busy and being around people. He went on to work at Berens stocking shelves, mowed for Kelly Kutters, sold monuments for Custom Stones, and served as a Grant County Commissioner.

On September 8, 1984, Marty married Debra "Deb" Wohlenhaus in Milbank, SD. The couple was blessed with children: Jeffrey and Kristi. They made their home in Milbank but enjoyed their cabin on Big Stone Lake, which they purchased in 1992. Faith was an important part of Marty's life. He was formerly a member of American Lutheran Church and most recently a member of Living Word Lutheran Church in Milbank. Over the years, he served in many church roles, including as vice president of the church council. He enjoyed fellowship with the Corona Coffee Crew, Saturday Card Club, and Coffee Fellowship at Living Word. In earlier years, he was also a member of the Wilmot Snowmobile Club.

Marty will be remembered as a kind, generous man who was always willing to lend a hand, whether delivering Meals on Wheels, giving rides, or helping neighbors. Around town, he was often seen cruising in his golf cart, always stopping to chat with friends. At the lake, he and Deb loved teaching others how to water ski and enjoyed countless days boating together. Marty also gave back in a very special way, through his commitment to blood donation. He was proud to receive his 10-gallon pin. Marty had a big heart, a quick wit, and the gift of gab; he always had a smile to share. His presence brought warmth and joy to everyone he encountered.

He is survived by his wife, Deb of Milbank, SD; children: Jeffery (Shakira) Buttke of Austin, TX; Kristi (Scott) Schladweiler of Watertown, SD; beloved granddaughter, Charlotte Schladweiler; siblings: Brian (Susie) Buttke of Corona, SD; Regina (Leslie) Rethke of Milbank, SD; Ronda (David) Hanson of Corona, SD; Brent (Renae) Buttke of Corona, SD; Bradley (Donna) Buttke of Corona, SD; and James Buttke of Spearfish, SD; mother-in-law, JoAnn Wohlenhaus; brothers-in-law: Doug (Linda) Wohlenhaus of Wheaton, MN and Dean (Marilee) Wohlenhaus of Fergus Falls, MN; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death parents: Eldred and Alma Buttke; father-in-law, Lyle Wohlenhaus; and his favorite dog, Dream.

# Marty Buttke



## FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, August 30, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.  
Living Word Church  
Milbank, South Dakota

### CLERGY

Pastor Cutis Simonson

### MUSICIAN

Sarah Miller

### ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS

Travis Buttke | Scott Mueller | Ben Rethke  
Jeff Seehafer | Tyler Buttke | Randy Stuckey

### HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Corona Coffee Crew

### APPRECIATION

Marty's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the burial, please join the family for lunch and fellowship at the 4-H Building in Milbank.

### ARRANGEMENTS BY

*Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota*

February 20, 1950 - August 24, 2025

# Marty Butke

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF

*God saw you getting tired,  
and a cure was not to be.  
He put His arms around you,  
and whispered 'Come with Me.'*

*With tearful eyes  
we watched you suffer,  
and saw you fade away.  
Although we loved you dearly,  
we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
hard working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove,  
He only takes the best.  
It's lonesome here without you,  
we miss you more each day.  
Life doesn't seem the same,  
since you've gone away.  
When days are sad and lonely,  
and everything goes wrong,  
We seem to hear you whisper  
'Cheer up and carry on'.*

*Each time we see your picture,  
you seem to smile and say  
'don't cry, I'm in God's keeping,  
we'll meet again someday.'*  
*You never said 'I'm leaving',  
you never said goodbye,  
you were gone before we knew it,  
and only God knew why.  
A million times we needed you,  
a million times we cried.  
If love alone could have saved you,  
you never would have died.  
In life we loved you dearly.  
In death we love you still.  
In our hearts you hold a place,  
that no one could ever fill.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you didn't go alone,  
for part of us went with you,  
the day God took you home.*