Richard "Dick" Howard Porter, a dedicated hard-working rancher and devoted family man, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2026, at the age of 90 and will be truly missed by his loved ones.

Dick was born on December 21, 1935 in Edgemont, SD. He attended all twelve years at Edgemont Schools and then went to Black Hills State University from 1954 to 1956. A proud American who loved his country, he honorably served in the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper from 1956 to 1958. Following his military service, Dick turned his passion toward the land, working as a dedicated rancher from 1958 until his retirement in 2003. He married Judy Chase in 1963 and they began their family in 1964 with their first daughter Laura. Daughters Terri and Paula were born soon thereafter and last but not least, they completed their family with Jessica in 1979. It was very important to Dick to show his daughters the value of hard work and they were right alongside him, working the cattle and sheep, haying and doing chores morning and night. Somehow, he was able to teach them how to anticipate what tool he was going to need when working on ranch equipment.

Dick was important to his local and ranching communities, serving on the Edgemont School Board, as a past director of both the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association and the South Dakota Stock Growers Association, and as a lifelong member of the Western South Dakota Buckaroos. Dick loved the western lifestyle and enjoyed watching rodeos, talking about livestock and ranching, reading western history, and spending time with family. Above all, Dick was deeply passionate about his Catholic faith, which guided him throughout his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alvina and Harry Porter; his brother, Ralph Porter; and his dearly missed grandson, Logan Van Eaton.

Dick leaves behind a rich legacy of love and devotion. He is survived by Judy Porter, his wife for forty years; his daughters, Laura (Johnny) Gabrielson, Terri (Jon) Lautt, Paula (Tim) Schaack, and Jessica (Wyatt) Van Eaton; and his brothers, Bill (Connie) Porter and Tom (Peggy) Porter and nieces and nephews. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Cortney (Chris) Jones, Jake (Annie) Cadwell, Whitney Harper, Cooper (Taylor) Jensen, Josh (Koel) Barker, Avery (Colt) Travnicek, Tel Schaack, Treg Schaack, and Tres Schaack, as well as a cherished great-grandfather to 13 great-grandchildren.

Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home



A Cowboys Prayer



Oh Lord, I've never lived
where churches grow.
I love creation better as it stood
That day You finished it so long ago
And looked upon Your work
and called it good.
I know that others find You in the light
That's sifted down through
tinted window panes,
and yet I seem to feel You near tonight
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.
I thank You, Lord, that
I am placed so well,
That You have made my
freedom so complete;
That I'm no slave of whistle, clock or bell,
Nor weak-eyed prisoner of wall and street.
Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky;
Make me a partner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.
Let me be easy on the man that's down;
Let me be square and generous with all.
I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in town,
But never let'em say I'm mean or small!
Make me as big and open as the plains,
As honest as the hawse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze!
Forgive me, Lord, if sometimes I forget.
You know about the reasons that are hid.
You understand the things that gall and fret;
You know me better than my mother did.
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said
And right me, sometimes, when I turn aside,
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead
That stretches upward the Great Divide.

MAY THE SOUL OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Richard Howard Porter

REST IN PEACE

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL VIGIL
6:00 p.m., Sunday, August 30, 2026
St. James Catholic Church
Edgemont, South Dakota

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL MASS
2:00 p.m., Monday, August 31, 2026
St. James Catholic Church
Edgemont, South Dakota

CELEBRANTS
Fr. Collins Igwilo
Deacon Pat Coy

MUSIC
Provided by St. James Music Ministry

PALLBEARERS
Tim Schaack, Wyatt VanEaton, Jon Lautt,
Josh Barker, Cooper Jensen, Jake Cadwell, Johnny Gabrielson

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
All of Dick's Brothers & Lifelong Friends

LUNCHEON
Parish Hall

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS
United States Army & Hot Springs Veterans Honor Guard

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL COMMITTAL
Following Mass at the Edgemont Cemetery

MEMORIALS
Memorial to the State Veterans Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota