

Jesse Lyle Whitford was born February 17, 1937 in Bixby, SD, to Ira Alonzo and Ethel Agnes Whitford. He passed away January 15, 2023 at home with family by his side after a short battle with cancer. He was the youngest boy of 10 siblings.

He spent his youth in Faith, SD, where he attended a country school. He moved to Sturgis when he was 10 years old where he and the younger siblings of his family lived and attended school. He joined the Navy when he was 17 years old - it was called the "Kiddie Cruise" because they could join at 17 and be out at age 21. After leaving the Navy at age 21, he worked multiple jobs before joining the South Dakota Department of Transportation in 1968. He worked there for 26 years, 4 months and 2 days - retiring in 1994.

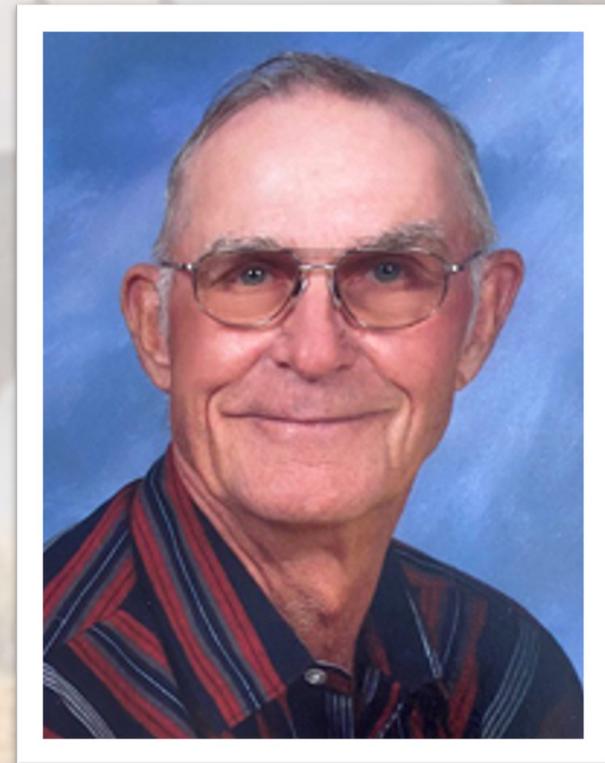
Jesse met Suzanne Iris Mollerud at a dance in Vale, SD, and they were married one year later on December 6, 1958. They settled down in Sturgis where they raised their four children: Leslie, Keith, Wanda and Susie. He and Sue enjoyed dancing at the Vets club and playing cards with friends in their younger years. When his children were young, he spent a lot of time with them fishing, hunting and teaching them various skills. He found peace and happiness with his horses for many years and passed the love and skill of horseback riding onto several of his grandchildren. He was an avid walker and made many friends and acquaintances around town during his walks. He was a kind, gentle man loved by his family, friends and co-workers.

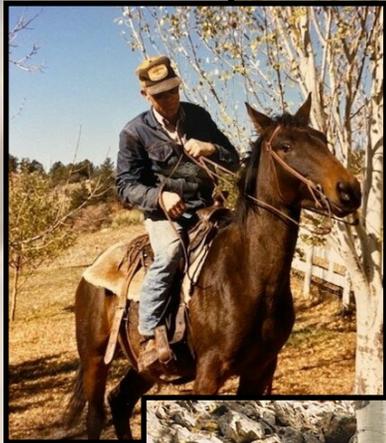
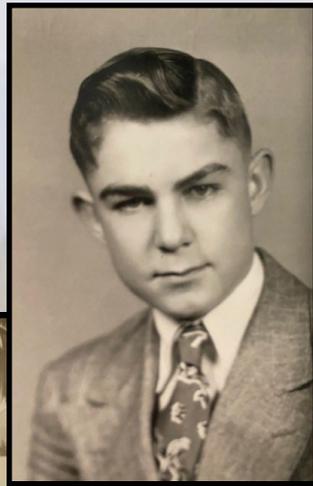
He was preceded in death by his mother and father; brothers, Samuel, Myron and Merle; sisters, Corrine, Donna and Lois; and by his daughter, Wanda. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; three sisters, Janice, Sharon and Betty; and his children, Leslie (Robin) Whitford, Keith (Karen) Whitford, and Susie (Kevin) Kuntz; 10 grandchildren; and 22 great grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkdaefunerals.com.

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch,
at Grace Lutheran Church, following the committal.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*

In Loving Memory Of
Jesse Lyle Whitford
February 17, 1937 ~ January 15, 2023





In Loving Memory Of
Jesse Lyle Whitford

Born

February 17, 1937
Bixby, South Dakota

Died

January 15, 2023
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Chaplain Christian Johnson

Musicians

Marlene Kotab Danny Chapman

Musical Selections

“Here I am, Lord” “Gather Us In” “Grace Flows Down”

Pallbearers

Craig Whitford Mike Whitford Chase Whitford
Josh Whitford Anthony Martinez Bradlee Kuntz

Honorary Pallbearers

Kristin Lankutis Kelsey Eckhart
Lindsey Allen Nicholas Kuntz

Military Honors

United States Navy
Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota