

Close the Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over, lie down and rest your head,
Your time has been and struggles enough, put the tractor in the shed.
Years were not easy, many downright hard, but your faith in God transcended,
Put away your tools and sleep in peace, the fences have all been mended.
You raised a fine family, worked the land well and always followed the Son,
Hang up your shovel inside of the barn; your work here on earth is done.
A faith few possess led your journey through life, often a jagged and stony way,
The sun is setting, the cattle are all bedded, and here now is the end of your day.
Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin; the stories flow like fine wine,
Wash off your work boots in the puddle left by blessed rain one final time.
You always believed the good Lord would provide and He always had somehow,
Take off your gloves and put them down, no more sweat and worry for you now.
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven, no more must you wait,
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate.

In Loving Memory



Gary Lee Frank

December 15, 1947 – May 2, 2026

In Loving Memory

Gary Frank

1947 ~ 2026

PRAYER SERVICE

7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Friedens Reformed Church
Tripp, South Dakota**

FUNERAL

10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, May 7, 2026
Friedens Reformed Church
Tripp, South Dakota**

CLERGY

Rev. Andy Underhile

ORGANIST

Pinky Huether

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
How Great Thou Art
Amazing Grace

SPECIAL MUSIC

Take My Hand Precious Lord
Duet by Joe Weber and Jimmy Weber

PALLBEARERS

**Weston Frank, Ashton Frank, Christian Jager,
Nicholas Jager, Chase Frank & Gavin Martin**

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

**Jasmin Frank, Allison Frank, Alexis Bierbrauer,
MacKenzie Martin, Chloe Kocer, Jocelyn Kocer & Camden Frank**

BURIAL

**Friedens Reformed Church Cemetery
Tripp, South Dakota**

MILITARY RITES

**Army National Guard
American Legion Post 142**

Gary Lee Frank was born on December 15, 1947, in Scotland, South Dakota, to Alfred and Rachel (Griess) Frank. He graduated from Avon High School in 1966. Following high school, he served in the Army National Guard out of Wagner. He served in the 137th Engineer Battalion for 8 years reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant, and discharging in 1975.

On February 16, 1974, Gary was united in marriage to Kathleen Voigt in Avon, SD. Together they built a life rooted in family, hard work, and community.

Gary was a lifelong farmer who took great pride in his work. In addition to farming, he did custom hire work and sold seed, forming many lasting relationships along the way. He never met a stranger and was deeply involved in his community, serving as a board member for the Avon Farmers Co-op Elevator, B-Y Water District Board of Directors, Tripp American Legion member, Tripp Farmers Elevator board member, and Dakota Plains board member. He was also a member of the Twin Rivers Old Iron Association along with the Friedens Reformed Church Consistory Board.

Gary enjoyed the simple things in life—sharing Team National with friends and family gave him the opportunity to build community and travel. He enjoyed spending time with loved ones, fixing old tractors, and playing pool. He will be remembered for his steady presence, strong work ethic, and dedication to those around him.

Gary, 78, of Avon, died Saturday, May 2, 2026, at St. Benedict Health Center in Parkston.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Frank of Avon, SD; his children: Stacy (Christi) Frank of Tripp, SD; Kelcey (Summer Radke) Frank of the Black Hills, SD; Cindy (Trevor Koehn) Frank of Brandon, SD; and Gary (Kelsey) Frank of Avon, SD.

He is also survived by his grandchildren: Weston Frank, Ashton Frank, Jasmin Frank, Allison Frank, Alexis (Jordan) Bierbrauer, Chase (Cassandra) Frank, Christian Jager, Nicholas (Makenzie) Jager, MacKenzie (Gavin) Martin, Chloe Kocer, Jocelyn Kocer, and Camden Frank; and one great-grandchild, Wilder Jager.

Gary is further survived by his siblings: Dennis (Janet) Frank, Judith (John) Mulder, Mary (Eric) Schertel, and Kenneth (Madge) Frank; along with many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law; one grandchild, Jayden Jager, and brothers-in-law, Raymond and Richard Voigt.