

Arnold Ralph “Arnie” Wellnitz was born on October 28, 1948, at St. Bernard’s Hospital in Milbank, SD, to Ralph and Allkie (Blum) Wellnitz. One of six children, he grew up in and around the Milbank community. He was baptized on November 2, 1948, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Albee and later confirmed on February 25, 1968, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Milbank. After completing his education, he began working at Big Stone Cheese Factory in 1970.



On June 20, 1970, Arnie was united in marriage with Sharon Schmeichel at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank. The following year, in 1971, he began working at Big Stone Canning Factory. In 1973, he took a position at Hunter Granite Quarry, where he worked until the quarry closed in 1980. Later that year, in August 1980, Arnie began working at Dakota Granite Quarry until his retirement. Arnie was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Milbank.

In his spare time, he enjoyed mowing lawns and blowing snow. During nice weather, you could see Arnie and Sharon sitting outside in their lawn chairs, drinking coffee while watching and waving to folks as they drove by. Arnie was never afraid to start a conversation while in the grocery store, at the clinic, or following church services. For several years during the winter months, Arnie and Sharon lived in Watonga, OK, with their son, Terry. From there they would drive down to Fulshear, TX, to visit Tammy and her family for a week or two. Arnie could be found having his morning coffee while visiting with the customers at the Watonga café or at the local McDonald’s.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Wellnitz of Milbank, SD; his children: Lee Wellnitz of Milbank, SD; Dean (Tiffany) Wellnitz of Milbank, SD; Tammy (Jason) Wojahn of Fulshear, TX; and Kelly Dockter of Willow Lake, SD; nine grandchildren; sister, Joyce (Floyd) Hermans of Milbank, SD; brother, Earl (Marlys) Wellnitz of Greeley, CO; sisters-in-law: Sandy (Dale) Wellnitz of Milbank, SD; Carol (Donny) Wellnitz of Norwood/Young America, MN; and Margie (Rick “Cowboy”) Wellnitz of Milbank, SD; brothers-in-law: Loren (Rita) Schmeichel of Milbank, SD; and Dick (Linda) Schmeichel of Milbank, SD.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Ralph and Allkie (Blum) Wellnitz; father-in-law and mother-in-law: Walter and Olga (Klepel) Schmeichel; sons: Brian and Terry Wellnitz; brothers: Rick, Donnie and Dale; and sisters-in-law: Joan Bowers and Gerri Schmeichel.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Arnold “Arnie” Wellnitz

WHO WAS BORN

October 28, 1948
Milbank, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

March 12, 2026
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, March 20, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Peace Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CLERGY

Pastor Albert Meier

MUSICIAN

Kathy Steinlicht, Pianist

SPECIAL SONGS

“Amazing Grace” | “On Eagle’s Wings” | “Rock of Ages”

ACTIVE CASKET BEARERS

Lee Wellnitz | Dean Wellnitz | Earl Wellnitz
Mike Smith | Kelly Dockter | Jason Wojahn

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Beloved Grandchildren

APPRECIATION

Arnold’s family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the funeral service, please join the family for a luncheon in the church dining area.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Please use this QR Code to view
Arnold's online obituary and guestbook.

