



*I'M FREE*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took his hand when I heard His call.  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts, and to thee  
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Arlo Merrel Dockter*

WHO WAS BORN

June 17, 1927

Kilborn Township, Grant County, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

December 27, 2019

Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, January 2, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Milbank, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Reverend Timothy Koch

MUSICIANS

Kristy Tostenson, Organist

Lily Trapp, Vocalist

CASKET BEARERS

Michael Lupinek | Dustin Lupinek | Steven Trapp

Eric Stuckey | Dwight Dockter | Daniel Dockter

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion Birch-Miller Post #9

V.F.W. Grant County Post #3486

V.V.A. Northeast SD Chapter #1054

D.A.V. Chapter #19

INTERMENT

Milbank City Cemetery

Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Arlo's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.

Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family for lunch and fellowship in church dining room.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

Mundwiler Funeral Home

Milbank, South Dakota

Arlo Merrel Dockter was born on June 17, 1927, in Kilborn Township, SD. He was the son of Otto and Linda (Karges) Dockter and the fifth born of seven children. He was baptized and confirmed at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD, and was a lifelong member of the church. Arlo attended school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Kilborn #2. He lived in Kilborn Township as a young man and farmed with his father and brothers.

Arlo served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1952. He was stationed overseas in Korea from January 1951 to October 1952. He was awarded several medals.

On October 25, 1958, he was united in marriage with Betty Heppner at Wilmot Lutheran Church in Wilmot, SD. They moved into Milbank in 1959 and lived in the house he built. The couple had three children: Rhonda, Randy, and Ryan.

Arlo started working for Walter Grothe as a mechanic in 1952. He worked for Ed Reiners as a carpenter from 1954 to 1961. From 1961 to 1988, Arlo and his brother, Elwood, worked as a carpenter for Earl Bohlen. Randy, his son, also worked with him until his retirement in 1998. Randy then took over Arlo's business. Following his retirement, he enjoyed making items for family and friends and kept busy with his hobbies. He always took great pride in his yard. He rarely missed early morning coffee with his friends at Hardees or a Minnesota Twins game.

Left to cherish his memory is his daughter, Rhonda Lupinek of Milbank, SD; sons: Randy (Lori) Dockter of Milbank, SD; and Ryan Dockter of Brandon, SD; three grandchildren: Michael Lupinek of Gillette, WY; Dustin Lupinek of Watertown, SD; Kristin (Eric) Stuckey of Estelline, SD; two step-grandchildren: Steve and Michael Trapp of Milbank, SD; and two great-grandchildren: Lily Trapp of Milbank, SD; and Ellevene Stuckey of Estelline, SD; one brother, Lowell Dockter of South Shore, SD; one sister, Ardith Larson of Milbank, SD; goddaughter, Lynda (Dale) Cook and their son, Dawson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Betty Dockter; two sisters: Eleanor (Fred) Kauers; and Lorraine (Reuben) Aden; two brothers: Ellwood (Alma) Dockter and Darwin (Carol) Dockter; two sisters-in-law: Ardyce (Alvin) Grothe; and Ruth Dockter; and one brother-in-law, Mike Larson.



*A Father's steady hand  
prepares us for  
the world...  
He endures  
forever in  
our hearts.*