

James Allen Welken

December 20, 1943 - April 13, 2017

Funeral services for James Allen Welken, 73, were held at 3 p.m. Monday, April 17, at the Memorial Baptist Church in Wheatland, Wyoming with Pastor Craig Cagle officiating. Interment was in the Fairburn Cemetery in Fairburn, South Dakota 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 18, with Pastor Justin Trent officiating.

Jim Welken passed away Thursday, April 13, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland after several years of suffering from lung and heart problems.

James was born on Monday, Dec. 20, 1943 in Valley City, ND, the son of Leonard and Clara (DeVries) Welken. He grew up and was educated in Valley City. During his school years he worked in his father's electrical business and spent summers working on neighborhood farms. After high school, he farmed near Kathryn, North Dakota for several years. From there he went to the Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota for two years where he received his Aviation & Electronics license.

Through a friend, he met his future wife, Anita B. Gorsuch of Fairburn, South Dakota. Jim and Anita were married in February of 1968. To this union, three children were born; Janna, Cinde, and Clinton.

Jim worked at multiple mechanical jobs throughout his career. These included Hallmark Cards in Leavenworth, Kansas, Melroe Bobcat in Gwinner, North Dakota, and as a co-owner of a Napa Auto Parts store in Valley City. Eventually his love for mechanic work brought him to Basin Electric,

Laramie River Power Station in Wheatland, Wyoming in 1979. He retired from Basin after 27 years as a Lead Mechanic in 2006.

In retirement he started a tractor repair business which his grandsons named "The Rusty Wrench". He enjoyed pursuing his life-long hobbies of motorcycle riding, gardening, restoring machinery, making sauerkraut, wine and shopping at Goodwill. He was so proud of his children and never got tired of bragging about his grandsons. He loved life and enjoyed traveling, going to coffee with his buddies and many church friends, some of whom he called "Puritans".

Jim was survived by his wife of 49 years, Anita B. Welken, of Wheatland; children, Janna (Brook) Lee of Pinedale, Wyoming, Cinde (Isaac) Wright of Evans, Colorado, and Clint (Holly) Welken of Laramie, Wyoming; brothers, Larry (Deloris) Welken and Ivan Welken both of Valley City; grandchildren, Justin Lee and Nathan Lee both of Pinedale and Zane Garner and Mason Garner both of Laramie; along with many nephew, nieces, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial to the Memorial Baptist Church, 202 Nineteenth Street, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

Serving as pallbearers were Clint Welken, Kevin Banish, Justin Lee, Nathan Lee, Isaac Wright, Clyde Gorsuch, and Eric Brown.

The Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland were in charge of the arrangements.

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