



Dennis R Tolliver

May 21, 1948 - March 19, 2026

Dennis Richard Tolliver, of Lennox, South Dakota passed from this life on March 19, 2026 in Wakonda at the age of 77.

Please join the family for a visitation from 3:00-5:00 pm, Sunday, March 22, 2026 at Jarman Family Funeral Home in Lennox. The funeral will take place the following day at 11:00 am, Monday, March 23 at Faith Baptist Fellowship in Sioux Falls. Burial with military honors at the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery will follow a lunch reception.

Denny was born on May 21, 1948 in Brookings, South Dakota to Richard and Marian Tolliver. He grew up in Brookings and at 17 years old, began a lifetime of military service, enlisting in the United States Navy. After his time in the Navy, Denny returned to Sioux Falls and spent just a few short years working as a civilian, before re-enlisting in the United States Air Force from 1971-1975. He served the remainder of his time in the military in the United States Air Guard, retiring in 2000. During his years in the military, Denny earned several awards for outstanding service, including Airman of the Year in 1998. He was a member of the VFW as well as the American Legion.

On June 28, 1971 Denny was united in marriage to JoAnne VanRoekel at Grace Reformed Church in Corsica, SD. His Air Force career took them first to Rapid City, then San Bernadino for four years. In 1975, the family moved

back to South Dakota, eventually settling in Lennox, where they raised their four children. Besides his military career, Denny worked for several years at Malloy Electric in Sioux Falls, as well as working over 10 years at the EROS Data Center post-retirement. He was a longtime member of Faith Baptist Fellowship and spent the last several years as a member of Evangelical Free Church in Sioux Falls.

Denny's family and friends will always remember his life of dedication and service. But the memories they will hold most dear are of moments spent together – his jokes and the laughter they shared, his tender heart and his love for his grandkids who will miss their "Bumpa".

Denny is survived by JoAnne Tolliver of Lennox, to whom he was married for 52 years; his children, Stacie (Reese) Peterson of Lennox, Michael (Karen) Tolliver of Tea, Jenna (Tom) Kunstle of Orange City, Iowa, and Kristin Tolliver (Jose Alaniz) of Gig Harbor, Washington; grandchildren, Jade, Mara, Christian, Caleb, Malachi, Maddy, Zephyr, Eden, Hosanna, Jacob, Ben and Adelyn; and great-grandchildren, Bella and Amia, as well as many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marian Tolliver, sister, Linda Oldehoff and brother, Michael Tolliver.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Wounded Warriors Project at <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>

Cemetery Details

South Dakota Veterans Cemetery

25965 477th Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Jarman Family Funeral Home
408 S. Main St.
Lennox, SD 57039
(605) 647-5163

Funeral Service

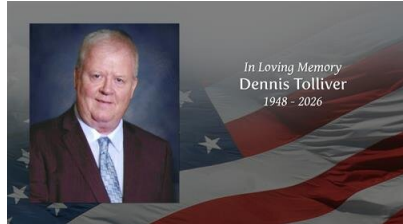
MAR 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Baptist Fellowship
601 W 57th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Tribute Wall



“ Jarman Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dennis R Tolliver



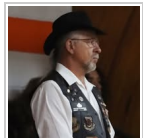
Jarman Family Funeral Home - March 22 at 03:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service



Jarman Family Funeral Home - April 03 at 10:54 PM



“ Under the wide Blue Sky, Dennis Tolliver walks with steady, quiet grace, guiding my weary hands through the tangle of a database, using the transaction Blue Sky when all hope is lost. The wind carries his laughter like a memory that refuses to fade, and the sunlight writes his name across the day, as if the world itself remembers the warmth he never failed to give. When evening softens, and the daylight thins to gold, we speak softly into the hush, “Until We Meet Again in the Blue Sky,”

Michael Laufman - March 26 at 08:06 AM

MB

“ I worked with Denny for many years in Supply at the SDANG. He always had a smile on his face and eager to help if I had questions. I remember that he had this old car that he would drive to work. I asked him one day if he was ever going to replace it. His answer was that he couldn't because he had so many miles on it that he had to see how far it would go. His goal was 500,000 miles. I don't know if he made that goal but my bet is that he did! RIP Denny. My prayers and sympathy to the family.

Melania Barnes - March 24 at 06:41 AM

DA

“ I hooked up with Denny when I first enlisted in the South Dakota Air Guard in supply in 1985 . When I got hired as a full time technician in supply Denny and I worked on different odd jobs. One in particular was Denny and I were assigned to take a floor polisher and put a chipper blade on it and chip up paint in the office area of the main hanger. Well Denny and I had a hard time keeping that polisher in our hands for it got away from us many times. We had some good laughs doing that job!! We probably could have won America's Funniest Videos..
My Prayers and Sympathy to Denny's wife and family.
RIP Denny!!

Darwin Ahrendt - March 22 at 02:15 PM

DR

“ Prayers and great memories for the family! I knew Denny via my SD Air Guard years before my retiring January 2003. A great man and a great American !

Dennis Riswold - March 22 at 01:28 PM

PI

“ Denny was my cousin, but as kids in South Dakota, our families shared a duplex. My aunt Marian took care of all of us; 5 kids each about a year apart (Denny the oldest, my sister Wendy the youngest.) Both my parents worked. I have such wonderful memories of those times, there's not enough space to recount them all. We were just a giant family, with extra moms and siblings. Grandma and Grandpa were just down the street. Then in the late 60s Denny stayed at our house in California after he got out of the navy and before returning to S.D. He and I had some great times driving around in his 62 Ford falcon. When the moon landing occurred in 1969, we were on our way back from Santa Cruz , the tail pipe fell off, and we had to attach with a coat hanger to make it home on time. But we did it. Rest in peace my brother. Love to the family. My heart is with you.

Pam Isonio - March 21 at 04:36 PM

CT

Pam, Denny was my older 1/2 brother, we shared a Dad. I'd love to hear some stories. I lived in SD for a short while.

Cherie Tonkin - March 30 at 01:31 AM

TB

“ My favorite memory was family gatherings. He was always there for me when life was very hard for me especially after mom Went with the angels I am so grateful for all he has done for me and my kids he had the biggest heart I will miss him very much thank you uncle love you so much

tammy Burchell - March 21 at 11:03 AM

JA

“ *My fondness memory of dennny my uncle is every time visiting him he always made me laugh and made me feel welcome he was the most loving person he cared for his family very much he would give a helping hand to anybody in the world if they needed it he will be greatly missed love you uncle love Jason*

Jason - March 21 at 10:41 AM