

April 4, 2007

## Obit: Merle E. Messing

- Merle E. Messing, age 65, of Castlewood, South Dakota, died on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at Beaver Creek, Ohio. Funeral services will be Friday at 1:00 p.m., April 6, 2007 at Wight, Comes & Sogn Funeral Chapel in Watertown with Reverend Cliff Sheldon officiating. Bagpipes will be played by Bill Dempsey. Military rites will be conducted by Codington County Post 17 of the American Legion. Visitation will be prior to services.
- Interment will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Watertown.
- Merle Elmer Messing, the son of Elmer and Bernice (Spratt) Messing, was born on May 23, 1941 in Aberdeen,



South Dakota. He grew up in Groton, South Dakota where he attended school and graduated from Groton High School. He attended Northern State College and South Dakota State University.

- He was a member of the SD Army National Guard out of Aberdeen and was honorably discharged as an E7 in 1969.
- He married Beth Lilja on October 10, 1967 in Webster, South Dakota. The couple farmed near Groton until 1986 when they became hotel managers with Super 8. They later started Pineapple Lodging Management and managed motels for several chains of hotels.
- Merle was a member of Assembly of God Church.
- He enjoyed fishing, hunting, tractor pulls and horses.
- Merle E. Messing passed away on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at Beaver Creek, Ohio at the age of 65.
- He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother Greg.
- He is survived by wife, Beth; his children, Ginger Moeller of Castlewood, Carmen Griffith of Keedysville, MD and Shane (Tracy) Messing of Ft. Worth, TX; and five grandchildren.