



## Francis Bohnenkamp

September 22, 1924 - December 30, 2008

TORRINGTON, WYOMING.....A Funeral Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated for FRANCIS "FJ" BOHNENKAMP 84, at 10am Saturday, January 3, 2009 at St. Rose Catholic Church with The Reverend Father Michael Carr officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in the Valley View Cemetery. Francis died at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on December 30, 2008. A Rosary/Wake service will be held on Friday at 7pm at the funeral home. Memorials in his honor may be made to the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department. Visitation will be Friday at the funeral home from 3pm thru the rosary but closed at the service. Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends may send condolences to the family at [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com). Francis was born September 22, 1924 in Remsen, Iowa the son of Frank and Sophie (Scharf) Bohnenkamp. He attended school in Remsen and worked on the family farm until December 14, 1943 when he enlisted in the Navy where he served on the USS Orion on the maiden voyage of that ship. During his stint in the Navy he married DonnaBelle Laddusaw at Groton, Connecticut and honeymooned in New York City. After his discharge on December 12, 1946 he returned to Remsen and farmed a number of years. In March of 1959 he moved to Watauga, South Dakota and operated a ranching business. In June of 1965 the family gypsy moved to Mobridge, South Dakota where he had a livestock feeding operation. In the summer of 1967 Francis again put on his gypsy robes and moved to a farm at Torrington, Wyoming where he did custom hay work and

cattle feeding. In 1973 he assumed the position of manager at the Stockman Livestock Auction which he held until 1983. In 1979 Francis and Donna moved into the city of Torrington where they resided until 2000 when Donna passed away at which time he moved to Hawk Springs, Wyoming where he spent his summers raising a large garden and enjoyed sharing his produce with friends and family. After leaving the sale barn he continued with his cattle buying business until his death. Throughout his lifetime Francis enjoyed his fishing trips to South Dakota, playing cards, especially the games of pitch and poker. His card playing talents included winning second place in the Saloon 10, Texas Hold'em tournament on New Year's Day of 2008. Francis is survived by four daughters, Lynn (Quintine) Mertz, of Mobridge, South Dakota, Bonnie Keller of Trail City, South Dakota, Suzanne D'Innocenzo of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Jayne Shimic of Torrington, Wyoming; two sons Pat Bohnenkamp of Douglas, Wyoming, and Jeff (Trish) Bohnenkamp of Torrington; grandchildren, Casey, Jesse, Kirby, and Toby Keller of South Dakota, Nick D'Innocenzo and Kara Gilley of Colorado, Shain Shimic of Gering, Nebraska, Shad and Shay Shimic of Torrington, Mindy and Michael Bohnenkamp of Douglas, Ryan Bohnenkamp of Bahrain; and fourteen great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Donna; his son Joe; three brothers Lyle, Ken, and Bill; and a sister Marian Kellen.

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ To Suz, Jayne, Lynn, Bonnie, Pat, and Jeff?

*Sorry to hear of the passing of Francis. He was a true cowboy and the best pitch player around and I was glad to have known him as a father-in-law.*

*My earliest and fondest memory of him was the time he took care of the cat population on your farm west of Torrington. That, I will never forget.*

*Please accept my condolences.*

*Joe D'Innocenzo*

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**Joe D'Innocenzo** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Todd and Jodi Bohnenkamp** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Lynn, Bonnie, Suzanne, Jayne, Pat & Jeff.

*We are so very sorry to hear of the loss of your father and our uncle. You have all of our sympathies. He was a great uncle and I always enjoyed being around him.*

*I sat next to him at the kitchen table in Mom's house after she passed and I got to talk to him for some time.*

*He always had a smile on his face and he just seemed to enjoy people and life so much. I loved the sound of his laughter. It made you feel real good.*

*I do remember the time he was at our house helping us paint and Mom came outside to tell France that he had a telephone call.*

*About 2 minutes passed and he came running out of the house and jumped off the front stoops about 10' into the air shouting with great excitement that he had won a brand new Chevy Pick-up from the Sioux City Stockyards. You could have heard him all the way to Torrington had you lived there then.*

*The pick -up was bright yellow and in those days it wasn't as popular as it is today, so he sold it and selected a color that was toned down quite a bit from the yellow.*

*I will say prayers for him and for all of you during this time of your loss.*

*Love and prayers from the  
Jim & Lyn Kellen families*

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**Jim & Lyn Kellen** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Knowing Frank over the years was a pleasure. Enjoyed buying cows from him and always felt he did his best when he he bought and sorted my calves. Missed seeing him on the road the last few years.*

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**Bill Sears** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Bonnie, I worked with you briefly in the office of the Mobridge Community Hospital in the late 1960s or early 1970s. I wish to express my sympathy for the loss of your father. I never knew your father, but I can empathize with you after losing my own father some years ago.

*Sincerely,*

*Janelle Davidson*

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**Janelle Davidson** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Our thoughts and prayers were with all of your family during the unexpected passing of Francis.

*Sincerely,*

*Josh and Monique eldridge*

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**josh and monique eldridge** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM