

*In Loving Memory Of*

# **Leroy Curley**

**“Wicahpi Wanjila” ~ One Star**

April 21, 1935

October 6, 2012

Thunder Butte, South Dakota

Rapid City, South Dakota

**WAKE SERVICE:**

7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2012  
Cultural Center ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**FUNERAL SERVICE:**

11:00 a.m., Friday, October 12, 2012  
Cultural Center ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:**

Rev. Norman Blue Coat, Leroy Bobtail Bear,  
Mother Margaret Watson, Ivan Looking Horse

**CASKETBEARERS:**

Sonny Dupris, Francis Addison, Jacob West, Duane Curley,  
Marcus Hollow Horn, Wakinyan Harden, Justin Bear Eagle,  
James Curley, Bryce In the Woods, Lucas Curley

**HONORARY CASKETBEARERS:**

Melvin Foster, Garnett Black Bear, Sr., Henry Holy Bear, Judy Nichols,  
Everlee Blue Hair, Poncho Larrabee, Tammy Crow, Looking Horse Family,  
Chauncey Iron Wing, Bird Horse Family, Mervin Bordeaux, Ruby Cadotte,  
Herbert Hale, Carlton Buffalo, Cook Family, David Bald Eagle, Sr.,  
Mary Howard, Mary Olive Johnson, CRST Support Services, Village Center  
Family, Ivan Bruguier, Archambault Family, Bob Mandan, Black Hills  
Treaty Council, Duane Mandan, Lower Brule Treaty Council, Post 308,  
CR Veteran’s Assoc., CR Lakota Akicita, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
All of Leroy’s Relatives and Friends

**MUSICIANS:** Little Crow Drum Group and All Musicians Welcome

**FAVORITE HYMN:** “The Precious Name”

**INTERMENT:**

Fool Dog Cemetery ~ Iron Lightning, South Dakota



## *The Family Chain*

*If Love could have saved you -  
You would not have died.*

*If tears could bring you back  
You'd be by our side.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you did not go alone;  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.*

*God takes us one by one  
And breaks the family chain.  
But somewhere in a better land  
Our chain will link again.*



Eagle Butte, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)

**Leroy Cleophus Curley (Wicahpi Wanjila)** was born on April 21, 1935 in Thunder Butte, South Dakota to Peter Jake and Marie (Wet Skirt) Curley. In his early years he attended Iron Lightning Day School and then transferred to Old Agency Boarding School where he went on to graduate in 1955.

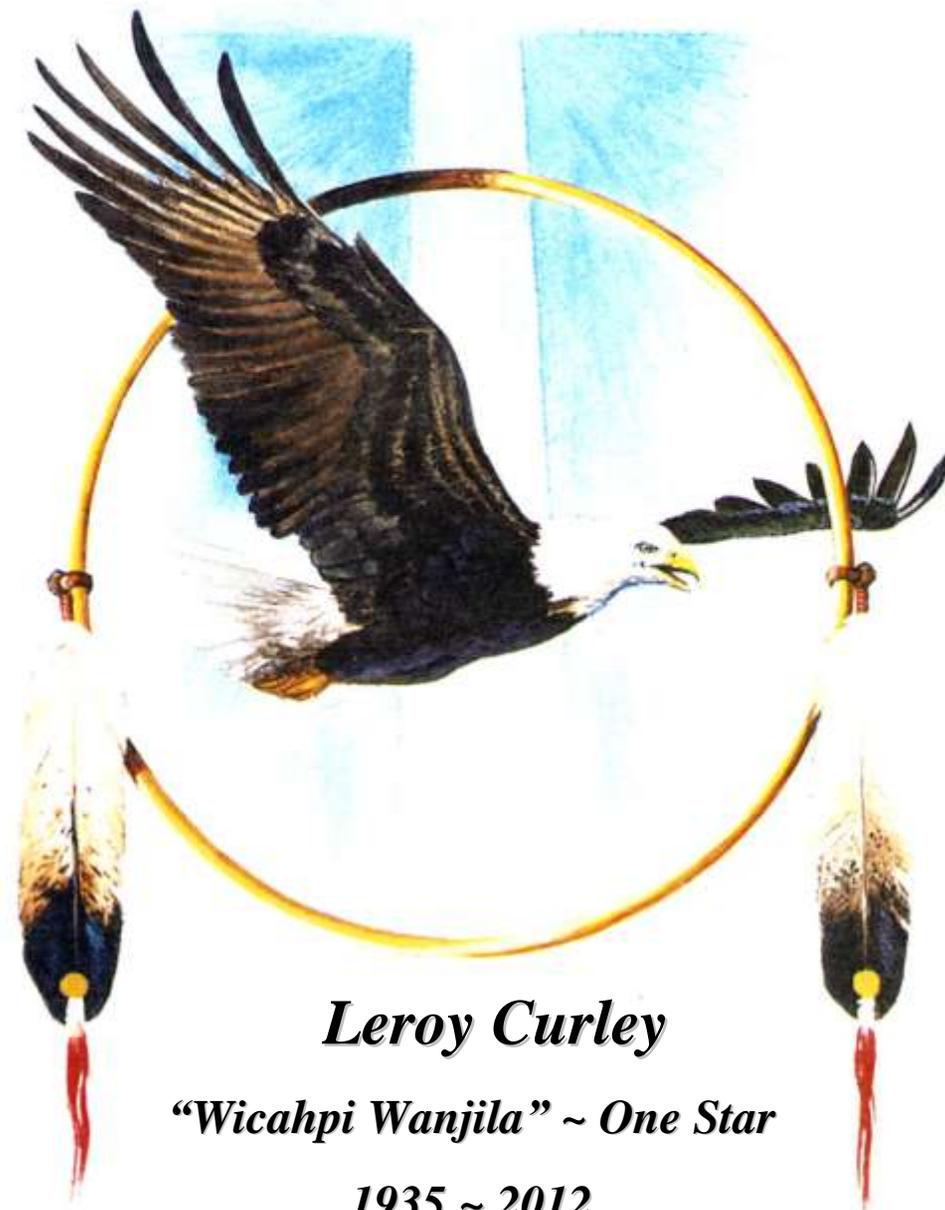
Shortly after he graduated he enlisted in the US Marine Corp in April 1957 as a PVT, and then was honorably discharged in April 1958. After coming home he attended Northern State College, Black Hills State College and Cheyenne River Community College. He then received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the Veterans Administration Center in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

In 1982 he created the Scientific 41 Letter Alphabet for Lakota Language and 10 symbols for the base-ten Lakota number system. He was on the Titunwan Lakota birth of Nations, Titunwan Treaty Council at 1868, Black Hills Treaty Council, Wounded Knee Treaty Council, Eagle Lodge Denver Co. He also traveled to different countries such as: France, Puerto Rico, Germany, Switzerland and Mexico. He received several honors and awards throughout his lifetime. He was a United Nations Native Ambassador representing all Tribes. A book was written by Nate Meyer with Leroy's help. The title of the book was, "The Titunwan, Lakota Alphabet as an Icon of Decolonization". Many of Leroy's articles on Lakota value and history were published in the local newspaper.

He enjoyed meeting new people in his travels and spending time with his family and friends. He was very proud of his grandchildren that had enlisted in the services, which he gave Indian names to. Leroy also kept up with all of his other grandchildren and their accomplishments. Education played a big role in Leroy's life, and he encouraged them to go to school and study hard.

Leroy is survived by his nephews: Cecil Jr., Kenneth, Myron, Keith, Irving and Danny Curley, David West Sr. and Loren Curley; nieces: Linda Addison, Amelia, Melissa, Joan Curley, Rose Red Dog, Nancy, Renee West, Cece Baumeister and Audrey West Houser; 88 grandchildren; 184 great grandchildren; and eight great great grandchildren.

Leroy was preceded in death by his mother, father, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and 10 great grandchildren.



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***1935 ~ 2012***