



A Cowboy's Prayer

*Oh Lord, I've never lived where churches grow.
I love creation better as it stood
That day you finished it so long ago
And looked upon your work and called it good.
I know that others find you in the light
That's sifted down through tinted windowpanes.
And yet I seem to feel you near tonight
In this dim, quiet starlight on the plains.*

*I thank you, Lord, that I am placed so well
That you have made my freedom so complete:
That I'm no slave to whistle, clock or bell,
Nor weak-eyed prisoner of wall and street.*

*Just let me live my life as I've begun
And give me work that's open to the sky;
Make me a pardoner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft or high.*

*Let me be easy on the man that's down:
Let me be square and generous with all.*

*I'm careless sometimes, Lord, when I'm in town,
But never let 'em say I'm mean or small
Make me as big and open as the plains.
As honest as the hawse between my knees,
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains,
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze!*

*Forgive me, Lord, if sometimes I forget.
You know about the reasons that are hid.
You understand the things that gall and fret:
You know me better than my mother did.
Just keep an eye on all that's done and said
And right me, sometimes, when I turn aside,
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead
That stretches upward toward the Great Divide.*



Eagle Butte, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory Of

Melvin D. Bagola, Sr.

September 21, 1939
Thunder Butte, South Dakota

October 15, 2016
Mobridge, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Sunday, October 23, 2016
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE: 10:00 a.m., Monday, October 24, 2016
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

OFFICIATING:

Mother Margaret Watson and Mother Mikayla Dunfee

LAY READERS: *Eva Gilbert and Doris White*

CASKET BEARERS: *Brandon Bagola, John LaSalle, Troy Eagle Chasing, Norman Charger, Dale Bagola, Norman Blue Arm, Justin High Elk, Cap LeCompte, Gabriel Baker*

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS: *Kathy Gubin, Shawn Boehrs, Josephine High Elk & Family, Mobridge Golden Living Center staff and residents, Mobridge Regional Hospital, Aberdeen St. Luke's Hospital, John LaSalle Family, Hilda (Hap) Marshall Family, Eva Bagola Family, Laura Bagola Family, Jewel Bruner and the CRST Support Services, Doris White Family, Daren Bagola, Melvin & Priscilla Bagola, Adel White Dog, Doris Bagola Family, David White Dog, Nadine Fisherman Family, Dale Bagola Family, Deloris Bagola Family, Bob Mandan Family, Leonard Bagola, Monica Crow Family, Darlene Bagola Family, Straight Head Family, Walter Hanson Family and all of Melvin's grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Please forgive us if we have forgotten anyone.*

INTERMENT:

St. Paul's Episcopal Cemetery ~ LaPlant, South Dakota

Melvin D. Bagola, Sr., 77, of Eagle Butte, passed away Saturday, October 15, 2016 at the Mobridge Regional Hospital.

Melvin Bagola was born September 21, 1939 in Thunder Butte, SD to Guy and Mary (Straight Head) Bagola. He attended country school in Thunder Butte through the 6th grade and went on to receive his high school diploma from the Old Agency School. Following high school, Melvin completed two years of carpentry training through the Cheyenne River Community College. He also enlisted and served in the United States Marines.

Melvin married Beverly Clown and to this union two children were born: Julie and Gerald Bagola. He later married Doris Big Mane and together they had three children: Melvin Jr., Melva, and Daren Bagola.

Melvin worked as a Head Start bus driver for many years and did carpentry work, as well as ranch work and breaking horses. He was involved in the rodeo circuit where he did saddle broncing and bare back riding.

He was well known as an excellent basketball player in his younger years and continued to enjoy watching sporting events on television.

Melvin's life will be cherished by his children: Julie, Gerald, Melvin Jr. (Priscilla), and Daren; step children: Adel White Dog and David White Dog; many grandchildren; sisters: Eva Bagola, Hilda Marshall and Laura Bagola; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Melva Bagola; stepchildren: Joe, Donald and Rheta White Dog; one brother, Nathan Bagola; and two sisters, Esterlline Low Dog and Guyla Jandeau.



Ephesians 3:19

*And so at last you
will be filled up with
God himself.*

In Loving Memory

Melvin D. Bagola, Sr.

1939 ~ 2016