



My Dad's wedding band
after 60 years of marriage.
Wore down to a knob.
He never took it off.
Let this be an example to
you and someone you love.

The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand, "Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you'll miss this man. But it's true what you've been hearing, Heaven is a real place. That's no small consolation, you should use that fact to face.

The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones and draw on it to ease your pain, for he is not alone. You see, all his friends are up here and all his loved ones, too. 'Cause it wouldn't be a heaven without each one of you.

And heaven for a Cowboy is just what you might expect, it's horses that need tunin' up and heifers that need checked. It's long rides with a purpose and a code that lights the way and a satisfying reason to get up every day.

It's the ranch he's always dreamed of and never knew he'd find. And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind. Him, leanin' in the saddle with his ol' hat on his head, contentment set upon his face like blankets on a bed.

The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat. The bit chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet. And you somehow get the feelin' that he's sittin' on a throne a'gazin out on paradise just like it was his own.

I can promise you he's happy, though I know you can't pretend you're glad he made the journey, it's too hard to comprehend. The earthly way you look at things can never satisfy your lack of understanding for the answer to the 'Why?'

So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest, I only take the top hands 'cause my crew's the very best. And I know it might seem selfish to friends and next of kin, but I needed one more Cowboy and 'ole Dave fit right in."

In Loving Memory Of

David Lee Nelson

January 8, 1940
Omaha, Nebraska



December 14, 2019
Pierre, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2019
CRST Bingo Hall ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE: 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 20, 2019
CRST Bingo Hall ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Brent Cuny

CASKET BEARERS: Brodie Nelson, Dalton Nelson,
Dillon Nelson, Bryce Nelson, Danny Kelley, John Hunt,
Rynn Tucker Farlee, and Carlyle Ducheneaux

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS: A very special daughter, Diane DuBray; his second wives, sisters-in-law Betsy Ducheneaux and Big Sue Eberhard; Little Sue Campbell, Joan Webb, Midge Tiokasin, Shirley (David) Adkinson, and Sharron (Duane) Hannum; Geno Hunt; Everett Hunt; Margaret Eagle Staff; Pinky and Sammy Dupris; Junior and Rhea Smith; Buzz and Fay Reeves; Johnny and Sharron Holloway; Faye Longbrake; Pete Longbrake; Shorty Deal; Kris and Danny Schrempp; Donnie Farlee, Sammi Ducheneaux and Rynn; Mark and Connie Knight and families; Duffy Ducheneaux; Mae Lake; Jeff and Mitzie Hunt and families; Jim and Joni Hunt and families; Kathy McPherson; Geri Burgee; Robert Smith and family; Skeeter Smith and family; Ryan and Ashley Patterson and Everley; Ramona DuBray; Lynn LeCompte; Donita and Earp Fischer and families; Ross DuBray; Sean and Kellie Deal and families; Charlo Deal; Sanford Deal; Scott Deal; Colby Hannum; Pat and Shavonne Mitchell; Bogie Webb; Deb Claymore and family; Julie Young and family; Blayne and Linda Nordvold; Roxee Holloway; Nicky White Eyes; Romey and Joyce Gunville; EJ Gunville; JoLavae and family; Bill and Margaret Gunville; Tater and Laura Ward; Marty Ward; Troy Ward; Todd and Janell Ward; Rick Henry; Emmett Thompson; Walter Hanson; Don Bettleyoun; and all family and friends we may have forgotten, you all meant so much to Dave.

DRUM GROUP: Mad Bear

INTERMENT: Eagle Butte Cemetery ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota



Eagle Butte, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

David L. Nelson was born on January 8, 1940 in Omaha, NE to Chester and Dorothy Nelson. Dave was raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. During his early childhood, his father owned the racetrack located in the Rapid Valley area and during racing season he spent a lot of time helping and cleaning the tracks. Dave graduated from Rapid City Central High School in May of 1958.

Dave was a hardworking man, so the construction life was a perfect fit for him. In 1958, his chosen profession brought him to Eagle Butte to help construct the old IHS hospital, the Cheyenne Eagle Butte School and the Old Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Offices. It was during this time that he met the "prettiest girl on the reservation", whom he vowed he would marry on their first date. And that's exactly what he did, on July 11, 1960 he married the love of his life, Jacqueline 'Joni' Nelson, and to their union they were blessed with four handsome, funny and a 'little on the wild side' boys: DD, Zane, Jason and Jarrod. Dave and Joni lived in Rapid City after they married until 1963 when they decided to move to Colorado so he could continue perfecting his construction skills. Later in his career, he made a big decision to start his own construction company which gave him the opportunity to pass his knowledge and skills to his sons, nephews and anyone who wanted to learn the trade. In 2010, he and Joni made the big move back to Eagle Butte so he could help construct the new IHS hospital. He prided himself on having helped build the old and the new hospital.

Dave always enjoyed the rodeo life and if he could have, he would have continued on that path. He made sure all his boys were entered in little britches rodeos. Throughout his life he attended as many rodeos as he could, and it wasn't very often that he missed any of the CRST Labor Day and Fair Rodeos where he watched his family compete and would reminisce with old friends about their wilder days. One of his proudest rodeo moments was when he rode 'Bojangles' at the Clarence Lawrence Ranch in Whitehorse, SD.

Whether he was being called Dad, Uncle or Grandpa, Dave truly enjoyed being around his family. While living in Colorado he enjoyed attending his grandkids' sporting events. After he moved to Eagle Butte, he was able to attend sports events for his other grandsons and great nephews who lived here. When he wasn't able to attend an event, he made sure to at least check in to see how they did. And once in a while he'd make an appearance at his great-great nephews' school concerts.

He is survived by his wife and still the prettiest girl on the reservation, Jacqueline "Joni" Nelson; sons: David D. Nelson (Diane), Zane S. Nelson (Heidi), Jason G. Nelson and Jarrod E. Nelson; grandchildren: Bryce Nelson (Taylor), Ashley A. Patterson (Ryan), Dalton J. Nelson, McKenzie Elizabeth-Joyce Nelson, Brodie Nelson, Dillon J. Nelson, and Ciarra G. Nelson; great grandchildren: Kaylee and Kimimila Nelson and Everley Patterson.

He was preceded in death by sons: Clinton E. and John L. Nelson; parents, Chester and Dorothy Nelson; brother, Art Nelson; sister, Jane Hettinger; parents-in-law Jack E. and Jennie E. Hunt; sisters-in-law, Rebecca "Effie" Hunt and Lorraine "Beanie" Raeburn; brothers-in-law: Bill Lake, Martin "Honey" Webb, Collin Campbell, Ken Tiokasin, and Tim Raeburn; good friend, Lyle Ducheneaux; nephews, Arthur Hettinger, Charles "Charlie" Lake, Shawn Eberhard, Ford Ducheneaux, Blayne Teppo, and Stetson Cavanaugh; and nieces, Rita Potter and Diane Witt.



I wish I could see you one more time
Come walking through the door.
But I know that is impossible.
I will hear your voice no more.
I know you can feel my tears,
And you don't want me to cry.
Yet my heart is broken,
Because you had to die.
I pray that God will give me strength,
And somehow get me through
As I struggle with this heartache,
That came when I lost you.