

### *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.*



Ph. 605-964-3614  
Gettysburg, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)

## *In Loving Memory Of* **Lois Darlene High Elk**

**Wičáŋpi Wašté Win (Good Star Woman)**

October 19, 1960  
Eagle Butte, South Dakota

August 21, 2022  
Rapid City, South Dakota

**WAKE SERVICE:** 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 29, 2022  
CRST Bingo Hall ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**FUNERAL SERVICE:** 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 30, 2022  
CRST Bingo Hall ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:** Pastor Mary Dosch

**EYAPAHA / TRADITIONAL SERVICES:** Richard Charging Eagle

**EULOGIST:** Michelle Santos West

**CASKET ESCORTS:** USAF, SSgt. Kaleb Shepherd,  
US Navy SN, Logan Bison, Paul Garreaux, US Army Veteran

**CASKET BEARERS:** Gaeton Hunter – US Army Veteran, Morgan Valandra,  
Cambryn High Elk, Colin Kills Back, Manuel "Diamond" Swan III,  
Troy Eagle Chasing Jr., Baylon Weston II, Mahpiya Bison

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:** Alvin High Elk & Family, Alvira Gomez & Family, Benjamin & Henrietta Elk Eagle, Bryan Bender, Carl Petersen, Carpenter Family, Charging Eagle Family, Christine Blacksmith & Family, Clown Family, Cook Family, Curley Family, Dane & Rose LeBeau, Dolly Jo & Buddy Knife & Family, Doris Red Bird & Family, Dupris Family, Earlene Clown & Family, Felita Blacksmith & Family, Floyd High Elk & Family, George & Gloria Old Elk, Goldie Stroup & Family, Hale Family, Hermus Red Horse, High Elk Family (Green Grass), High Elk Family (Thunder Butte), Jake and Cindy Longbrake, Jeff and Consuelo Gillory & Family, John & Rita Birkeland, Judy Husky Houston & Family, LaClaire Family, Laura Hunt, Little Wounded Family, Lois' Care Team (Connie Sandine, Jennifer Smolik, Jennifer Williamson), Lyndon & Ann Old Elk, Marcella Miner & Family, Marrowbone Family, Mary Lee Johns, Max Blacksmith & Family, Monique Pleets, Monument Health Rapid City ICU Staff, Northern Hills Training Center employees and residents, Pete Blacksmith & Family, Ramona Fischer & Family, Red Bear Family, Riggins Mortenson, Sharon Vogel, Straighthead Family, Tony Marshall, Uses the Knife Family, Vicki & Neil Birkeland & Family  
If we have forgotten anyone in our time of grief, please forgive us.

**MUSIC:** Michelle Santos West "Amazing Grace" (Lakota)  
Bad Bear Drum Group, All Singers and Musicians are Welcome

**INTERMENT:** AY Bar Cemetery ~ Thunder Butte, South Dakota



**Lois Darlene High Elk** was born October 19, 1960, at Eagle Butte, SD. She was the third oldest child to Paul and Clara (Stricker) High Elk, who resided on Irish Creek in Thunder Butte, SD. Lois or Darlene as everyone called her, grew up around the Irish Creek area and at the High Elk Ranch. She comes from the Howozu/Oohenunpa/Izipcho bands of the Lakota and is a member of the Wakinyan Khiza Thiyospaye (Fights the Thunder Clan).

When Lois was six years old, she fell and hit her head. This injury damaged her brain and left her mentally handicapped. Lois attended special education class and then was home schooled by her mother. She attended the Black Hills Training Center from August 1978 to July 1981.

Lois had a loving heart and greeted everyone with a warm smile and "Hello," and made you feel loved. She helped with the care of many of her nieces and nephews. She loved babies and was always excited to meet every baby born into the family. Lois loved doing crafts her specialty was various crafts made from yarn. She always had crosses and potholders to gift to people when they came to visit. Lois enjoyed family get togethers, wacpis actually, and gathering where she would visit and tease everyone.

She lived with her parents until they left for the star nation.

In February 2015 Lois was accepted into the Northern Hills Training Center. The NHTC was just what she needed to help heal her lonely heart. Lois participated in various activities. When she would come back for holidays and family functions, she would make sure Lavae took her back on time. This was because she had a job and didn't want to miss work. Lois participated in the Special Olympics. Over the past years she participated in various events: bowling, basketball skills, softball skills, tennis ball throw, and 50-meter walk. She has earned over 75 Special Olympic medals and over 40 ribbons. Lois loved wearing them and showing them off. She loved being on the teams and always made it fun. She would rally her teammates and co-residents and had fun in everything she did.

Through the Center, Lois earned two trips. In September 2018, she traveled to Monterey Bay. She went sightseeing on several boats, dolphin watching and visited the aquarium. The second trip was to Las Vegas, July 2022. She tried out the casinos, went on a roller coaster ride, visited art galleries, beautiful fountains, lots of statues, the M&M Shop and the Coke Cola Shop. Her favorite was when she attended the Elvis Presley impersonator show. The entertainer sang a song to her.

Lois was diagnosed with breast cancer, December 2019, she had surgery and treatments. After January 2020 Lois was CANCER FREE and kicked cancer's butt!! as she would say. She always had a beautiful smile, loved giving everyone a hard time, being a jokester and making everyone laugh. She loved to sew and make things for everyone. She even tried teaching her caretakers how to sew and laughed every time they poked themselves. She would help anyone that needed it.

Lois had huge heart and beautiful soul. She will always and forever be in our hearts.

She is survived by sisters: Mildred (Tommy) Carpenter, LaVae (Hermus) Red Horse, Codi High Elk; grandchildren: Mahpiya Bison, Wylie Bearcomesout; nieces: A'Reta Jo Tom, Rhea Jo (Tom) Bearcomesout, Lynnea (Ben LaPoint) Swan, Karlys (Bryan Bender) Swan, Miriam Swan, Melissa, Tiara Carpenter, Ashley Elk Nation, Lorraine Good Nature, Donna and Rikki Red Legs, Tiffany (Darrell) Boyd, Lativia Houston, Dr. Veniece (Chris) Lacey; nephews: Charles and Delano White Eagle, Manual James Swan II, Todd Johns (Kaitlin Red Legs) Justin and Jalen Knife, Tommy Red Tomahawk (LaChelle Eagle Chasing), Paul Garreaux (Taytum Condon), Charlie Marshall, CL (Marlene) Good Nature, Philip Nordvold, Skeets Dolphus (Tesla Clairmont), Kennon Houston; hunka sisters: Consuelo (Jeff) Guillory, Judy (Husky) Houston, Dr. Vicki (Neil) Birkeland; hunka brothers: John (Rita) Birkeland, Jake (Cindy) Longbrake, George Porgy (Gloria) Old Elk, Lyndon (Ann) Old Elk; cousins: Tony Stricker, Gerald High Elk, Mark Arvin Red Bear, Michael Yates, Elwood (Lee) High Elk, Dana (Wynema), Kermit (Nancy), Barbara Connie Dupris, Carol (Tom) Knight, Diane Pretty Weasel, June High Elk, Denelle High Elk (David Janis), Kristi High Elk, Raylene High Elk, Lorna Red Bird, Tina Red Bird (Halley Maynard), Irma Noisy Hawk, Eunice Hollow Horn; uncle, Floyd High Elk; aunts, Christine Blacksmith, Beatrice Crow.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents: Paul and Clara; brother, Carlos Red Legs; sisters: Ruby Nordvold, Paulette High Elk, Carole Elk Nation, Alva, Della, Ruby Darlene Stricker; cousins: James, Lyle Elk Nation, Casey, Doug Sr., Fred Dupris; nieces: Jayme, Terri White Eagle, Darla, Janet, Shelly Stricker, Mary Grass; nephews: Brady Knife, Gerald White Eagle, Avery Red Legs, Kenneth Fights The Thunder, Troy Eagle Chasing Sr.; granddaughters: Angel Rose, Laila Bird and LaVae Marie Johns; and hunka brother, Floyd Hand.

*Iyótankičhilake*



*Lois Darlene High Elk*

*Wičáŋpi Wašté Wiy (Good Star Woman)*

*1960 ~ 2022*