



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEREK CHANDLER DEFENDER “WAMBLI THO HOKSILA”

May 23, 1998
Eagle Butte, South Dakota

October 17, 2025
Pierre, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICE:

6:00 p.m., Monday, October 27, 2025
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE:

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 28, 2025
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

OFFICIATING:

Fr. Kurt Huber and Pastor Joseph Marrowbone

SPEAKER: Casey Morrison

CASKET BEARERS:

Jeshua Estes, Casey Morrison, Joseph Marrowbone,
Trevor Caldwell, Travis LaRoche II, Marion Morrison,
Julian Chipps, Rudy Sanchez, Orlando Morrison,
Sam Herrald, and Caleb Vandervier

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:

Laticia Holmes & Family, Jeshua & Tina Estes & Family,
Cleo Hairy Shirt, Sam Herrald & Family, Caleb Vandervier Family,
Vicki Herrald, Stephanie Vandervier, Samantha Herrald, Cody
Pederson, Christopher, Mark Jr., Jacob & Michael Fire Cloud,
Sky Hale, Gina Lewis & Family, Benjamin & Marion Morrison,
Audee Morrison & Family, Lavonne Belt, Orville Belt,
Alvin & Carol Veit & Family, Orlando Morrison Family,
Shannon, Maggie, & Brittany Morrison & Family, Howie Benally,
and many other family members and friends

DRUM GROUP: Medicine Creek Singers

INTERMENT: Morrison Family Cemetery
Takini, South Dakota

Safely Home

I AM HOME IN *Heaven*, DEAR ONES;

Oh, so *happy* and so *bright*!

There is perfect *joy* and *beauty*

In this *Everlasting Light*.

ALL THE PAIN AND GRIEF IS OVER,

Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at *Peace Forever*,

Safely *Home in Heaven* at last.

And *He came Himself* to meet me

In that way so hard to tread;

And with *Jesus'* arm to lean on,

COULD I HAVE ONE DOUBT OR DREAD?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,

For *I love you* dearly still;

Try to look beyond earth's shadows,

Pray to *trust* our *Father's Will*.

Derek Chandler Defender, 27, of Pierre, passed away Friday, October 17, 2025, at his home in Pierre, leaving us shattered in a million pieces.

Derek was born two months premature on May 23, 1998, in Eagle Butte, SD, to Leslie Morrison and Larry George Defender. Derek had a strong faith in Jesus, and he knew he was saved by the grace of God.

He is survived by his mother, Leslie Veit; stepdad, Harold "Pete" Veit; biological father, Larry "George" Defender; siblings: Megan Noisy Hawk, Lawrence, Chantelle, and LaShonda Defender, Apollo Veit, Jonathon, and Jesse; half-sister, Lindsey Defender; children, Xavier Defender and Jasmine Hairy Shirt; aunt, Mary Defender; nephew, Zuko Noisy Hawk; nieces, Azula Noisy Hawk and Loretta LaRoche; cousins: Kane Knife, Curi and Lance Whiteman, Joseph Marrowbone and family, Wynette and Mercedes Black Crow and family; special family: Lynelle and Brian Caldwell and family, Ron and Mina Caldwell, Jesseca Boyer Halverson and family, Joey Boyer, Barbara Morrison and family, Beverly Morrison and family, Lee and family, Ruby and family, Opal and Mark Fire Cloud and family, Audie Morrison, Jamie Brave Eagle and family, Kathy Morrison and son Sky Hale, Gene Morrison Sr. and family, Casey Morrison.

Derek is preceded in death by grandparents: James and Amelia Morrison, Raymond and Margie Defender; cousins, Paula Marrowbone and Chelsea; uncles: Michael, Joel, and Marion Morrison, Donald and Earl Defender; siblings, LeAnn Joss Defender and James Switter; brother-in-law, Wesley Noisy Hawk; cousin, Germaine Morrison; grandma, Gertrude Black Crow; and great grandpa, Emerson Red Bull.



Ph. (605) 964-3614
Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

IN LOVING MEMORY



DEREK C. DEFENDER

1998 - 2025