



In Loving Memory Of Aaron David West Sr.

“Kunsu, Toka Kutepi, Kuwapi Hunska, Canunpa O’We”

November 30, 1954

January 18, 2026

Cheyenne Agency, South Dakota

Wanbli Paha, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Friday, January 30, 2026

CEB Auditorium ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

9:00 p.m. Veteran’s Roll Call

FUNERAL SERVICE: 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026

CEB Auditorium ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

LAKOTA SERVICES: Alex White Plume and Charles Camp

EPISCOPAL PRAYER SERVICE: Deacon Iva Traversie

EULOGIST: Katherine White Cloud

CASKET BEARERS: Johnny Boy, Chael West, Dominik West, Santos West,

Jackson West, Shawn Anderson, Marcus Hollow Horn Jr.,

Wakiyan Chief, Kenton Walks, Dii Jei Gutierrez,

Kaisagarr Tavai-Fiatoa, Marcus Hollow Horn Sr.

MUSIC: Drum Group: Tatang Ihanni (Old Bull) Singers

All Singers Welcome

INTERMENT:

St. Luke’s Episcopal Cemetery ~ Iron Lightning, South Dakota

With Military Honors by Post #308

We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten
And you never will.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain,
To talk and guide us through our lives,
Until we meet again.
“Cante Tinz’iya Wacekiyapo”

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:

Hunka Brothers; Alex White Plume, Percy White Plume, Roger Yellow Cloud, Virgil Yellow Cloud, Carlin Jewett, Rusty Jewett, Deb Knight, Anthony Swift Cloud, Leroy White, Dean Loves War, Richard Long Feather, Benjamin Elk Eagle, Jim Pearman, Richard “Dickie” Marshall, Bruce Lyons, Miles White Cloud, Harvey Wood aka “Brother Man”, Amiel Talks, Johnny Maez, Quinn Balsz, Robert Clement “Clem” Wilkes, Iron Lightning Community members, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Education Staff, Walter Miner Law Enforcement Staff, Oglala Lakota College Staff, Four Bands Healing Center Transitional Living Center Staff, Gayle Dupris, Tillie Charging Eagle, Tyrone Marrow Bone, Porcupine Head Start Program, Little Eagle Day School, Cheyenne River Veterans Association, Si Tanka Wokiksuye Riders, Unity Riders-Canada, CRST Game, Fish & Parks Staff, CRST Title I Program, Keya Foundation, Wilmer Mesteth Sundance Hocokan, Mike and Eric Cross Sundance Hocokan, Jerome LeBeau Sundance Hocokan, Looking Horse Hocokan, Marlin Miner Tiospaye, Scott Laundreaux Tiospaye, Gladys Looking Horse Tiwahe, White Cloud Tiospaye, West Winds Home Health Nursing Staff, O’Leary Tiospaye, Joe and Bev Rose Tiwahe, Thad Rose Tiwahe, Ramona Simon Tiospaye, Hawk Eagle Tiospaye, Clown Tiospaye, Curley Tiospaye, Dupris Tiospaye, Pearman Tiospaye, Jerry Taylor Tiwahe, Alvino & Lizette Roybal Tiwahe, McLane-Oros Tiospaye, Phalena Mousseau-Thundershield, Kasto Tiospaye, Lori and Kevin Tiwahe, Helene Circle Eagle Tiospaye, Arbana Cudmore & Tiwahe, Mona and Roger Lawrence Tiospaye, Longbrake Tiospaye, Sammi Ducheneaux Tiwahe, Irona Howe Tiwahe, Una Howe Tiwahe, Charles Red Crow & Arbana Tiwahe, Brody Hall Tiwahe, Dale Hendricks, Mother Margaret Watson, Chalmer Combellick, Takoja Brantley, Takoja Chaske, Romero Tiospaye, Sheldon Red Bear, Red Elk Tiospaye, Uses The Knife Tiospaye, Blue Coat Tiospaye, Cook Tiospaye, White Wolf Tiospaye, Chad Tiospaye, Kimberly & Terry Bad Warrior, Jay & Jolee Clark Tiwahe, Sebastian Frost Tiwahe, Roman Ducheneaux, Shiloh Amiotte, Mike Bush Tiwahe, Dean Little Hawk Tiwahe, Lafferty Tiospaye, Chris Brave Heart Tiwahe, Tail Tiospaye, High Elk Tiospaye, Red Horse Tiospaye, Spotted Bear Tiospaye, Williams Tiospaye, Meeter Tiospaye, Izzy & Amber Tiwahe, Leland & Melissa LeBeau Tiwahe, Kevin & Marla Keckler Tiwahe, Margaret Lone Eagle Tiwahe, Afraid Of Hawk Tiospaye, Chris Thompson Tiwahe, Nata Zi Tiospaye, Eagle Chasing Tiospaye, Mike Peters Tiwahe, Lynn Cuny-Janis Tiwahe, Festus Fischer Tiwahe, Tipizi Win Tiwahe, Oscar Archambault, Sarah & Duane Dupris Tiwahe, Denise Casillas Tiwahe, Gunville Tiospaye, Talks Tiospaye, Widow Tiospaye, Shaving Tiospaye, Hollow Horn Tiospaye, Blue Arm Tiospaye, Turning Heart Tiospaye, Benoist Tiospaye, Little Hawk Tiospaye, Marrowbone Tiospaye, Brown Otter Tiospaye, Yellow Earrings Tiospaye, Long Feather Tiospaye, Donahue American Horse Tiwahe, Mike American Horse Tiwahe, Cherie Farlee Tiwahe, Jackson & Stevie Tiwahe, Jill Kessler Tiwahe, Claire O’Leary, Caroline Sand Tiwahe, LaBrake Tiospaye, Flying By Tiospaye, Bear Eagle Tiospaye, Looking Horse Tiospaye, Cross Tiospaye, Iron Cloud Tiospaye, Chermaine Weston Tiwahe, Darla Black Tiwahe, Circle Bear Tiospaye, All Sundancers, all Lakota Otakuye. And Special Persons: Delmar Scott West “Zuya Hoksila” and Kim Red Fox.



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

Aaron David West Sr. was born on November 30, 1954, at Old Agency on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation and was brought to the Wakiyan Maza Community where he was raised by his Unci, Marie Wet Skirt na Lala, Thomas Elk Eagle. To his close relatives, he was known as “Davey”, most people knew him as “Dave”, and to his takojas who he cherished, he was known as “Papa Dave”.

Aaron attended school at Iron Lightning Day School for grades 1st through 5th. He attended Dupree School for 6th grade, and continued school from the 7th grade forward at the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Dorms where shortly, thereafter, obtained his GED.

In May of 1975, at the age of 17, Aaron David West Sr. hitchhiked to Mobridge, SD where he met with the recruiter and enlisted in the United States Army. He was stationed in Berlin, Germany and was honorably discharged in 1980 after serving five years in the United States Military. Soon after being discharged from the military, Aaron’s role as a father began. Throughout his path through fatherhood, he first welcomed three sons. Jacob Grant West, Duane David West, and Aaron David West Jr., then daughter, Penny LeCompte, and later would come two sons: James West, Loren West, and daughter, Berlin West.

Post-military, Aaron David West Sr. served his community for seven years as a Patrol Officer for the Cheyenne River Police Department. He also served as the Commander of the Cheyenne River Vietnam Veterans Association and was one of the original Si Tanka Wokiksuye Riders. He also participated as a rider and supporter of the Unity Ride in Canada.

He later achieved his education and began his role as an educator of Lakota Language and Culture. Aaron became one of the very first Lakota Language teachers within the BIA-Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School and taught Lakota Language and Culture in various positions with many Oglala Sioux Tribe Schools and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe schools. One of his most enjoyable experiences was at the Montessori school in Little Eagle, SD where he taught a Lakota Language immersion class with kindergarten students. He taught several Lakota Culture, Lakota history, and Lakota traditional foods and arts classes for Oglala Lakota College at Cheyenne River College Center.

Throughout his tenure as an educator of Lakota language and culture, Aaron worked as a Transitional Living Center Aide for 12 years at Wakpa Waste Counseling Services, formerly known as Four Bands Healing Center.

Shortly before his passing, Aaron volunteered his time by helping in teaching Lakota Language and Culture at the Lakota Arts & Crafts nights at the Lakota Cultural Center. You would always see him with the microphone in hand telling stories, teasing, and sharing announcements on these evenings. Aaron loved helping the participants who attended these events and became a relative to those who worked with him on their projects.

For the past 40 years of his life, Aaron dedicated himself to upholding and promoting Lakol Wicohan to all people through his personal commitment to Lakota ceremony, language, cultural teachings and history and maintaining that Wocekiya, Prayer; comes first in everything we do. He was a Sundancer for many years at several Hocokans in prayer for the people and all living things.

Aaron walked his life carrying the Lakota caje; Kunsu, Toka Kutepi, Kuwapi Hunska. Shortly before he made his journey to the Wicahpi Oyate, because of his many years of carrying and sharing the Lakol Wicohan, he received his final Lakota caje, Canunpa O’We which means, “Teachings of the Pipe”.

Aaron David West Sr. holding true to his belief in his Canunpa and prayer, made his journey to the Wicahpi Oyate on Sunday, January 18, 2026, and has been reunited with his Unci Marie, Lala Thomas, his Cekpa Duane David West, and many other relatives who made their journey before him.

Aaron is survived by his sons: Jacob West (Kylan, Chael, Kristyn, & Lucy), Duane West (Dominik & DeKiera), Aaron (Michelle) West Jr. (McKenzie, Angelique, Santos, Duane & Selena), James West (Julian & Jackson), Loren West (Libby & Nova); daughters: Penny LeCompte (Shawn, Angel, Gabe & Ava) and Berlin West; sisters: Audrey Houser, Nancy West, Rene West, Anna Long Chase, Jackie Brown Otter, Roxanne Long Chase; brother, Loren Curley; nephews: Chip, Shane, Troy, Sonny, Marcus, Shannon, Kenton, Chaske, Kenny, William, Zachary, Ronald, Alex; nieces: Lee, Lonna, Michelle, Bridget, Monique, Christie, Erin, Rhonda, Nicole, Amber, Allayna, Alexis, Danielle, Kelly; and numerous Takojas who he deeply cherished.

Aaron was preceded in death by his grandmother, Marie Wet Skirt; grandfather, Thomas Elk Eagle; Cekpa Duane David West; sisters: Cecelia Curley, Octavia West, Olivia Bear Ribs, and Wanda West; brother, Cody Long Chase; hunka brothers: Alex Guererro aka “John Moon”, Rocke Afraid Of Hawk, Duane Yellow Cloud; relatives: Justin, Bruce, Cekpas Duane and David, Sean, Maura, Samuel, Justine High Elk, and Davyn West.

