



### Psalm 23

Waawanyaka mitawa kin, ltancan kin  
hee; Wimakakijin kte sni.

Peji owihankiye en wahanmakiya;  
wooziiciyemini kin icakda  
yus-amayan ece.

Iye minagi kin yuецetu; wico-owotanna  
canku kin okna amayan, Iye Caje kin on.

Ho, Wiconte ohanzi Kaksiza kin okna  
mawani esa, taku sica wanjina kowakipin  
kte sni, niye mici yuun kin heon;  
cansakana qa cansagye  
nitawa kin, hena micantapi.

Mitokab wawnawotapi wan miyeciknaka,  
tokamayampi kin wicito kab;  
wikdi on pa sdamaya kiya,  
wiyatka mitawa kin iyanakde.



## In Loving Memory

# Abraham Benjamin "Abe" Kasto

February 11, 1944  
Old Agency, South Dakota

March 6, 2026  
Flandreau, South Dakota

**WAKE SERVICE:** 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026  
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**FUNERAL SERVICE:** 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
St. John's Episcopal Church ~ Eagle Butte, South Dakota

**OFFICIATING:** Mother Ellen Huber, Deacon Iva Traversie, Shirley Dog Eagle

**TRADITIONAL SERVICES:** Davey West

**CASKET BEARERS:** Benny Kasto, Camden Duphinais, Cody Mutchler,  
Wakinya Ska Running Hawk, Thomas Demery, Lakin J. Little Eagle,  
Avery Hawkeagle, and Delmar West

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:** Straighthead Families, Bagola Families, Kasto's  
Birdtail Dakota Sioux Manitoba, Canada, Late: Josephine Straighthead, High Elk  
Families, Late: Stanley & Cecilia Looking Horse And Families, Late: Sidney & Shirley  
Keith Families, Eagle Staff Families, Teri Good Bear & Family, Avis Red Bear &  
Families, Blue Coat Families, Red Elk Families, Bad Male Families, Irma Laplante &  
Family, Picotte Families, Trini & Chip Bird Necklace, Sheldon "Salty" Miner, Mary  
Tomassetti, Robert Shook, Korin & Stephanie Keime, Rev. Steve Yungkite, Danny  
Donavon & Family, Joseph Brings Plenty & Family, Frederick & Becky Crosby, Celia  
Espinoza, Karen Little Wounded, Jeff Turning Heart, Dave Sr. & Betty Archambault &  
Family, Jim Giroux, Kenny West, Chuck Allen Brown, Jim Anderson, Ben Elk Eagle,  
Gilbert Lind, Bill Mutchler, Ernie Mutchler, George "Sammy" Curtis, Harold Frazier,  
Emmanuel Red Bear, Joe & Beverly Rose, Sylvester & Dena Waloke, Harold &  
Geraldine Condon, Gordon "Shorty" Condon & Family, Jack & Rita Claymore, Willie  
Circle Eagle, Leland Benoist, Carol Little Wounded & Family, Melvin Young Bear,  
Melda Garreaux & Son Estaban, Chip Clarke, Jake Locust, Danny Nelson, Freida Holy  
Bull Condon, Psa Wiyaka Luta "Granny Red Feather", Kungsi Margaret Rocelli-Sioux  
Valley Manitoba, Canada, Davey & Michelle West & Family, Ted & Roberta Wolf &  
Family, Monique Ortega, Una Howe & Family, Wilma P. Teton, Sunshine Carlow &  
Family, Billy Archambault, Ricky Red-Wanblee, Joseph Lafferty, Sam Culbertson  
Nelson, Grandma Vivian Nelson, Dan Nanamkin, Teresa Balongh & Kirin, Rev. Allen  
Fluent, Auntie Jiiniikwe O'komashkikinabinais, Red Dog Families, Moran Families,  
O'leary Families, Medicine Wheel Assisted Living Center, Flandreau Santee Sioux  
Nursing Home, CRST Firefighters, CRST Telephone Authority & Gas Co.,  
CRST Lakota Thrifty Mart

**MUSIC:** Kasto's Drum Group, Birdtail Dakota Sioux-Manitoba, Canada,  
Green Grass Drum Group, All Singers and Musicians Welcome

**BURIAL:** Green Grass Cemetery ~ Green Grass, South Dakota



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

**Abraham Benjamin “Abe” Kasto**, 82, of Eagle Butte, SD, passed away Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Flandreau Santee Sioux Nursing Home in Flandreau, South Dakota.

Abe was born on February 11, 1944, in Old Agency, South Dakota, to Mabel Red Bear–Kasto and Norman Straighthead. He was the only child of his parents and was raised by his maternal great-grandparents, James and Annabel “Anna” Kasto. Abe grew up west of Green Grass in the country known as Inkpata, where his grandfather served as a minister for the surrounding communities. Abe spent time in his younger years visiting Canada, to be with his Dakota relatives from Birdtail Sioux Manitoba, Canada.

In his twenties, Abe enlisted in the U.S. Navy and trained to become a Navy SEAL. He successfully completed boot camp but made the difficult decision to return home to care for his grandmother Anna when she became ill.

In March of 1968, Abe married the love of his life, Grace Kasto. Together they built a life rooted in love, strength, and family. To this union were born five children: Dulcie Ann, Winona Dawn, Naomi Nicole, Moria Falon, and Seanacy Kason. Abe and Grace walked through life side by side, supporting one another through every joy and hardship.

Abe raised his children with deep respect for the traditional Lakota/Dakota way of life. He taught them that the medicines are found on the prairie, shared his favorite fishing spots, and passed on his love of the outdoors and the earth. He showed them how to garden, forage, and provide for their family. Abe also passed down traditional sacred songs and Olowan hymns. One of the many memorable experiences he shared with his children was the 500-mile run around the Black Hills, where they traveled together, carrying their camp and setting up along the way.

Abe served as a firefighter for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and worked as a squad boss, fighting fires across the United States. Wherever he traveled, he brought back souvenirs and stories for his children. He was also instrumental in helping start the first Sundance ceremony in Green Grass, South Dakota, known as the International Sundance.

Abe was also a Native American activist who stood up for the protection of the land and water. He helped fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline during the movement known as “NoDAPL” near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, where he stood as a water protector alongside many others defending the sacred waters and lands.

He earned certificates in plumbing, carpentry, and electrical work from Oglala Lakota College in Eagle Butte. Abe worked many jobs throughout his life, including as a carpenter, at Lakota Thrifty Mart, and as a propane driver for the Cheyenne River Telephone Authority. In that role, he traveled through many communities, often through harsh weather, ensuring that families stayed warm.

Abe was also a lifelong athlete. He competed in a triathlon, helped start a traveling basketball team, and trained as a firefighter. He was known as a skilled and respected hunter who understood how to use every part of the buffalo and was especially known for his cooking.

In his fifties, Abe suffered a stroke that changed the course of his life. Though he lost his voice and many of the activities he loved—fishing, driving, working, running, and speaking—his wife Grace remained his steadfast anchor, along with the love of his children and grandchildren.

In March 2023, Abe survived a serious medical emergency that nearly took his life, but he fought through it and was able to return home to Grace. Later that year, he stayed at the Medicine Wheel Nursing Home. Grace visited him whenever she could, sharing meals together and even taking naps side by side in their wheelchairs before she returned home each evening.

When Grace passed away in January 2024, Abe was heartbroken. When he passed on March 6, 2026—their wedding anniversary—his family found comfort in knowing they were reunited. Abe will be remembered as an amazing father, grandfather, friend, relative, and community member. His life was one of strength, tradition, love, and service to his family, his people, and the land.

He is survived by his children: Dulcie Kasto-Keith of Birmingham, AL, Winona Kasto of Eagle Butte, SD, Moria Kasto of Eagle Butte, SD, and Seanacy Kasto of Isabel, SD; 15 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Grace Kasto; parents, Mabel Red Bear-Kasto and Norman Straighthead; maternal grandparents, Lucey Kasto and Red Bear; paternal grandparents, Robert Straighthead and Susan Marrowbone; great-great-grandparents, James and Anna Kasto; daughter, Naomi Kasto; grandchild, Gerald “Yamni” Westly Running Hawk III; and great-grandchild, Kerian Bree Zephier.

## In Loving Memory



**Abraham “Abe” Kasto**

**1944 - 2026**

