



Don't Be Sad

*Don't be sad and lonely,
Because I've gone away.
Think about me only,
When it's a brighter day.
Don't waste your time crying,
Since I'm no longer here.
You have spent enough time,
Showing me that you care.
Wipe away your sadness,
For tears won't bring relief.
Cherish the memories,
Forget about your grief.
If I could be with you,
That is where I would be.
But I have no power,
To change life's destiny.
So try to be happy,
Don't mourn your life away,
For we'll be together.*



Faulkton, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory

Alan Thelen

*December 15, 1933
Seneca, South Dakota*

*October 1, 2014
Lakewood, Colorado*

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:

*10:00 a.m., Monday, October 6, 2014
St. Thomas Catholic Church ~ Faulkton, South Dakota*

OFFICIATING:

Fr. John Helmueller

LECTOR & EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Dawn Redden

CASKETBEARERS: "Grandsons"

*Gregory Thelen, Philip Thelen, Anthony Alan Thelen,
Michael Thelen, Paul Thelen, John Thelen
In Memory of James Thelen*

OFFERTORY:

Alanna Thelen, Emma & Avery Holdren

PLACING OF THE PALL:

*Katherine Putman, Bridget Thelen,
Jessica Thelen, Megan Thelen, & Victoria Thelen*

MUSICIANS:

Jerry Bowar & Linda Bartholomew

HYMNS:

*"Amazing Grace" "How Great Thou Art"
"Prayer of St. Francis" "Song of Farewell"
"On Eagle's Wings"*

INTERMENT:

*St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery ~ Seneca, South Dakota
With Military Honors*

Alan Thelen was born in Seneca, South Dakota on December 15, 1933. Early in his childhood he moved to the birth place of his father, a farm in Faulkton, South Dakota, where he spent the remainder of his youth. During his high school years, Al was active in football, basketball and, his favorite, baseball--where he won a state championship.

Upon graduation from high school, Al joined the US Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California. There he played for the Camp Pendleton baseball team. While there he enjoyed visiting various aunts and uncles, most particularly, Madelyn and Mac. Upon discharge from the service, Al enrolled at the University of South Dakota where he graduated in two and a half years and played for the Coyote baseball team. After graduation, in August of 1957, Al was accepted into graduate school at the University of Kansas. Before leaving for Kansas, he returned to the farm in Faulkton to take a year off. There, he met his wife Elaine Glanzman on a blind date she was reluctant to go on. They were married in the spring of 1958. One of the most memorable events of the wedding was his younger brother Bill, hooking up an "auto fooler" on his new car, severely damaging the vehicle. This forced Al and Elaine to honeymoon in their parents' car.

In the fall of 1958, the couple moved to the University of Kansas where Al obtained his Master's Degree. From there they began their journey of Al's career as City Manager in a number of cities. Included are: Atchison KS, Titusville FL, Leavenworth KS, Helena and Billings MT, Arapahoe County CO, Lake County, FL. Upon retirement from an active city management career, Al worked as a consultant in cities providing interim city management and executive search services. In this stage of his career, Al fulfilled his life-long goal of being a city manager in South Dakota when he became the interim city manager of Brookings.

Al passed away on October 1st in Lakewood, Colorado, where he and Elaine have lived for the past ten years.

Al was preceded in death by his infant sister Mary; his parents: Willard and Lou Thelen; and his grandson James Thelen.

He is survived by wife Elaine of Lakewood, CO; his six children: Mark (Liz) Thelen of Fargo, ND, Sue (Greg) Faulk of Reddick, FL, Monte (Jacque) Thelen of Aurora, CO, Matt (Caroline) Thelen of Sioux Falls, SD, Curtis (Cherrie) Thelen of Tucson, AZ, and Sara Holdren of Lakewood, CO and fourteen grandchildren.

