

TO THOSE I LOVE AND THOSE WHO LOVE ME

*When I am gone, release me, let me go,
I have many things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.*

*I gave to you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love you each have shown
But now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must;
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a time that we must part,
So bless the memories that lie within your heart.*

*I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me call and I will come
Though you can't see me or touch me I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart you will hear
All of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you come this way alone...
I'll greet you with a smile and say
"WELCOME HOME"*



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory Of

John H. Briscoe

March 22, 1945
Pierre, South Dakota

March 27, 2012
Gettysburg, South Dakota

SCRIPTURE WAKE SERVICE: 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 30, 2012
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

HYMNS: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" "Be Not Afraid"

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 31, 2012
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Fr. Jerry Kopel

LECTOR: Mike Bohnenkamp

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Mary Bohnenkamp

ALTAR SERVERS: Joshua and Hope Cordell

OFFERTORY GIFTS: Angela Harvill, Laura Kolker and John J. Briscoe

PLACING OF THE PALL: John's Family

CASKETBEARERS:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Michael Briscoe | John Nickolas | David Haman |
| Joe Haman | Kevin Briscoe | Maurus Brossart |
| Daniel Brossart | | Matthew Kurtz |

USHERS: Jeff Norden and Alfred Nagel

ORGANIST: Judy Robbennolt

VOCALIST: Janice Schlachter

HYMNS: "Servant's Song" "Here I Am Lord"
"I Am the Bread of Life" "Song of Farewell" "On Eagle's Wings"

INTERMENT:

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

John Harold Briscoe, 67, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend, passed away March 27, 2012.

John was born in Pierre, SD on March 22, 1945 to J. Harold and Emma (Schulz) Briscoe. He lived and worked in Potter County all his life.

He graduated from Gettysburg High School in 1963. It was high school that he discovered a talent for acting. John enjoyed theatre and was active in plays and productions in high school, college and afterwards, including coaching a summer community theatre program in Gettysburg.

After obtaining a major in Agriculture and a minor in Theatre from SDSU, John attended 2 years of graduate studies at the University of Wyoming and at the University of Montana, to pursue his love of acting. He returned to Gettysburg to farm with his brother, Jim, whom he loved dearly.

John was a pious and a spiritual man. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church where he served as a lector all his adult life. He also taught religious education classes, was a song leader and a Eucharistic minister. He even considered the priesthood as a young man, but he was meant to be a husband and father.

John met the love of his life, Rita Kay, on a blind date. She was in Gettysburg as part of her nursing education. John and Rita hit it off, enjoying a little drive-in movie and a lot of conversation that first night. By the end of the date, John knew he had met the woman he wanted to be the mother of his children. Rita had to return to nursing school, but John wrote Rita love letters every day for 8 months. John and Rita Kay Haman got hitched September 25, 1975. Throughout their marriage, John was a devoted husband. Every morning for 36 years, John started the day telling Rita he loved her and repeated his love for her several times throughout the day.

John also loved his children. He believed that all life is precious and should be celebrated, protected and nurtured. He reveled in family life. He was proud of all his children and loved to spend time with them. He relished his role as 'Papa' to his grandchildren, and usually had a new picture or story about the grandchildren to share with anyone who asked. His children and grandchildren were blessed to spend time with him the weekend before he passed. He and Rita saw them all.

John's life revolved around God and his family. Over the years, he enjoyed many activities including theatre, music, photography, hunting, genealogy and gardening. He was well read and loved words. In high school, John was known to read the dictionary if he was bored in study hall. He had an extensive vocabulary and he loved to share new words with his family and friends. He knew what the words meant and how to spell them, too. One special word was reserved for his wife, Rita- "pulchritudinous"- (meaning extreme beauty). His co-workers at ACE Hardware were frequently enlightened with a new word. Scrabble was a family favorite, with John often winning the game.

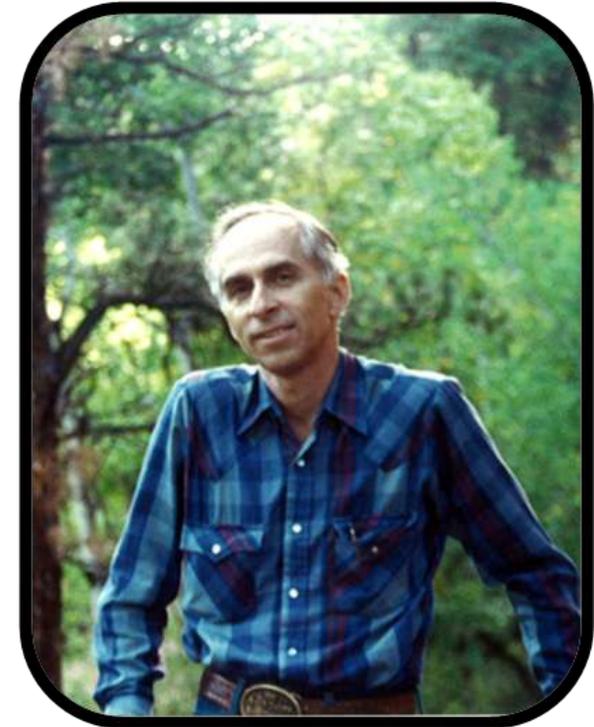
Surviving John are his wife: Rita of Gettysburg; his children: Angela (Brian Scott) Harvill of Sioux Falls, Laura Lea (Patrick) Kolker of Aberdeen, and John J. (Marissa) Briscoe of Sioux Falls; grandchildren: Michael, Alayna, Rebecca, and Stephanie Harvill, Sean Kolker, and Emma Briscoe; brother: James H. (Sharon) Briscoe of Gettysburg and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Carolyn Henry; and infant grandson, Joshua J. Briscoe.

His "new life" was explained simply and delightfully by one of his grandchildren. "Papa has wings and a halo, he lives up in the sky."

**"Thanx, my spouse and children
make a life well lived."**

Your dear old Dad



**This message is from a text John H.
sent to his son on March 22, 2012
after John J. had wished his Dad a
Happy Birthday.**