

In Loving Memory Of

# John Curtis Eikamp

March 3, 1983

February 18, 2019

Gettysburg, South Dakota

Scottsdale, Arizona

**PRAYER SERVICE:**

7:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019

United Methodist Church - Gettysburg, SD

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE:**

10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 2, 2019

United Methodist Church - Gettysburg, SD

**OFFICIATING:** Pastor Jeff Adel

**CASKET BEARERS:** Ryan Lake, Robby Lake,  
Jay Worth, Jared Hall, Nathan Jeffries,  
Darin Wickersham, Travis Ackerman,  
Andy Coppersmith, and Todd Tennant

**HONORARY CASKET BEARERS:**

Class of "2001" and All of John's Many Friends

**PIANIST:** Nancy Smith

**HYMNS:** "Amazing Grace"

"Hymn of Promise" "How Great Thou Art"

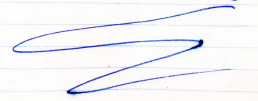

**INTERMENT:**

Gettysburg Cemetery - Gettysburg, SD

Arrangements entrusted to Luce Funeral Home  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



When you have nothing,  
the only currency you  
have is your kindness;  
And kindness is more  
valuable than money.

  
2/12/19 



In Loving Memory Of

# John Curtis Eikamp

March 3, 1983 - February 18, 2019



*Time is the most valuable thing we have. Once time is gone nobody gets it back and nobody knows how much they'll be given. John's time with us was much too short, but how John chose to spend that time is what made him so special.*

*John always lived his life almost as if he knew his time would be short. He worked in a field that constantly challenged and excited him, but was full of uncertainty. He was always travelling and in those travels was able to make friends out of strangers everywhere he went. More importantly, he kept those friends close. He chased after moments and opportunities instead of waiting for them to come to him. He chose to use his time doing things that most people would be afraid of. Things that, at times, he was afraid of. But John didn't let the fear of something new and something different hold him back.*

*He took every opportunity he had to spend his time with the people he cared about. If he were going to be anywhere close by he would always try to meet up with his friends and spend some time with them. He always made time for friends, even if he only had enough time to grab a quick beer. Or 3.*

*And what most people don't know is that John spent a lot of his time doing selfless things for other people. Most people didn't know about these things because John didn't brag about them. He didn't do them for attention. He did them to help people because he could or he did them just to help brighten someone's day. He did them because he cared.*

*John's greatest gift that he gave his family and friends was his time and the best way we can honor his memory is by the way we choose to use ours. We can spend our time doing for others more than ourselves. We can spend our time trying to be a better friend. We can spend our time trying to be a better person. We can spend our time trying to be more like him. We miss you, John.*

**Colossians 1:13-14**

***For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."***

**By Travis Ackerman**

## **John Curtis Eikamp**

was born March 3, 1983 to Barry and Pam (Lake) Eikamp in Gettysburg, SD. John grew up and attended school in Gettysburg; graduating from Gettysburg High School in 2001. He then attended South Dakota school of Mines and Technology in Rapid City for one year. His love of music then took him to MTSU Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee where he completed his Bachelors of Science in Mass Communications Electronic Media Production with minors in Speech and Theater Entertainment Design in 2005

While at school in MTSU, John along with friend, Nathan Jeffries, produced, hosted and edited a music video show called #Distortion TV which aired on MTSU's tv channel MTTV. John got many major label acts to appear on the show and helped break new rock acts of the day.

From 2005 to 2008 John lived in Nashville, TN, working as a freelance camera operator. While living in Nashville, he worked the 41st CMA Awards Show, CMA Festival, Martina McBride 2007 Tour, an Alan Jackson concert, and a Tracy Byrd concert in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 2008 John moved to Sioux Falls, SD, where he worked at the Washington Pavilion in maintenance and as a stage hand and projectionist. He was also a camera operator for all football and basketball games at SDSU from 2008-2012, SD High School Football Championships 2008, 2010 and 2012, and for Midco Sports Network college football and basketball games in Sioux Falls. He worked as a local union stagehand for many big concerts and events such as Alice in Chains, Five Finger Death Punch, Carrie Underwood, Rascal Flats and many more. He also worked at the Sioux Falls Arena changing over hockey, basketball and football floors for sporting events.

In 2012 John moved to Tempe, AZ and then to Scottsdale in 2017, where he resided at the time of his death. While in Arizona, John worked as a freelance Corporate Labor and Operator, Utility/Video Tech for many companies which took him all over the United States. He also worked as a Utility/Video Tech for NFL Network for Thursday night football, 2015 NFL Pro Bowl Draft, Super Bowl Media Day and Super Bowl XLIX New England Patriots vs Seattle Sea Hawks.

Through ESPN Sports and Fox Sports Network, John ran lower first, third base and center field camera for Major League Baseball spring 2013-2018. He had 20 games already scheduled for 2019.

John's career gave him the chance to really enjoy his love of music, concerts, and bands. He was able to meet and work with many famous people. John was a self-taught bass guitar player, and while he was in high school he participated in band all four years playing bass guitar and the baritone.

John loved to golf and was an avid Denver Bronco's fan. Just last May John surprised his mom for her birthday with tickets, and he took her and Barry to a Bronco's game in Phoenix in October.

We always joked the snow bird or summer bird has come home the past five summers to cooler weather. John enjoyed summers at home working with his dad installing satellite dishes and helping his mother with gardening, watering flowers and keeping a close watch on the sweet corn patch.

Movies can have a profound effect on the world. John's favorite movie was "A Beautiful Mind". The movie sheds light on mental illness, a particularly misunderstood and widely stigmatized illness. Because mental illnesses are a problem everywhere and finding a way to talk about this is very difficult. These families often suffer in silence. No matter what you go through, it's really how you deal with it that can be very sad and depressing or uplifting, motivating, and even empowering. We all have a choice in how we deal with things that happen to us. These past 11 years John's choice was to live life to its fullest. Even though John struggled with mental illness (bipolar) these past 11 years, he was very love-able and capable of giving love and kindness to all the people he met and lives he touched.

Something that John wrote shortly before his death, "When you have nothing, the only currency you have is kindness; and kindness is more valuable than money."

John is survived by his parents, Barry and Pam Eikamp of Gettysburg; sisters, Jackie (Jim) Hulscher of Doland and Jennie (Brady) Gross of Iroquois; nieces and nephews: Lainey, Grace and Paige Hulscher and Oscar, Quinn and Kori Gross; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Boyd and Lillian Lake and Maynard and Leona Eikamp.