



In Loving Memory

Nicholas Charles Bown

March 14, 1947

Gettysburg, South Dakota

May 4, 2023

Pierre, South Dakota

VISITATION

10:00 – 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2023

United Methodist Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2023

United Methodist Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Jeff Adel

EULOGIST

Trent Merkwan

CASKET BEARERS

Frenche Taft, Matt Blachford,
Trent Merkwan, Pete Severson,
Preston Schultz, and Jeff Bown

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

“I Saw the Light”

“When We All Get to Heaven”

“Me and God”

INTERMENT

Lebanon Cemetery
Lebanon, South Dakota

SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

Nicholas "Nick" Charles Bown, 76, of Pierre, passed away Thursday, May 4, 2023, at his home.

Nicholas Charles Bown was born in Gettysburg, SD on March 14, 1947, to Walter Sidney and Edna Lorraine (Hord) Bown. He was raised on the family farm in northeast Sully County and attended East Cora Country School. He graduated from Gettysburg High School in 1966.

In 1967, Nick married the love of his life, of 55 years, Crystal Engel in Hampton, IL. Their first son Leslie was born in 1968. Nick received an associate degree in auto mechanics from Southern State College in Springfield, SD in 1970. Their second son Clayton was born in 1972. Nick then received his Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education from the University of South Dakota in Springfield in 1974.

From 1974-1976 Nick taught auto mechanics at Father Flanigan's Boys Home in Boys Town, NE. He then went to West Point, NE to teach before returning to South Dakota. At the end of his teaching career, Nick worked as an auto mechanic until he moved on to his life dream of living on the family ranch in 1989. He and Crystal raised livestock until Nick's health forced him to retire in 2002.

Nick was a life member of the Masonic Lodge #173 in Onida, SD. Among his favorite activities were hunting, Silhouette and Cowboy action Shooting where he was known as Cottonwood Cooter. He also enjoyed fishing, camping, leatherwork, gun-repair, horn smithing, demolition derbies, and gardening. Another interest of Nick's was racing. After his retirement, he built and raced a dirt track car for several years. He watched all the Nascar races and went to Talladega, AL, Charlotte, NC, Rockingham, NC, and Topeka, KS to watch it live.

Nick left the ranch and moved to Pierre in 2003, where he lived the rest of his journey. He had the willpower to change his life. The big picture was that he wanted to be a better person, that he did by becoming a better husband and father. Nick worked hard to transform himself and learn the skills he needed to be sure they knew he loved them. Most important to him was spending time with his family and friends.

Nick is survived by his wife, Crystal of Pierre; sons: Leslie of Onida, and Clayton (Melinda) of Ft. Pierre; three step-grandchildren: Thomas, Ethan, and Brian Vetsch all of Ft. Pierre; brother, Michael (Diane) of St. Petersburg, FL; sister, Debra Boldin of Dallas, TX; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents: George and Elsie Hord and James and Clara E. Bown.

