

Leonard Mathias Marks

was born January 11, 1958 to Mildred “Mickey” Marks in Pierre, South Dakota at St. Mary’s Hospital in Pierre, South Dakota and was raised by his grandmother, Nelda Lambie. Leonard attended grade school at Pierre Public Schools, St. Joseph Indian School and Marty Indian School. He attended high school at Crow Creek Tribal Schools, later obtaining his GED. He then went to Job Corps at Clearfield, Utah and later transferred to Nemo, South Dakota. From there he attended Mitchell Vo-Tech for air conditioning and heating.

Leonard met and married the “Love of his life”; Janette (Jean) Big Eagle and they were together for 22 years. Through this union they were blessed with four beautiful children; three daughters: Mary Elizabeth, Julia Makayla and Leona Agnes and one son: July Douglas.

Throughout his life Leonard held various jobs. His job experience included working in the health field as a Community Health Representative and Emergency Medical Technician. He worked as a security guard for the Lode Star Casino and security/maintenance for Pierre Indian Learning Center. Leonard worked for Red Horse Lodge Drug Abuse Prevention Program as the Big Bend Recreation Director for the community recreation center. He worked various jobs for the local farmer and rancher. He worked at Ferrell Limo Service in Pierre, SD, driving their transit buses for two years. Leonard’s most recent and last job that he enjoyed the most was being a Big Bend bus driver for the Crow Creek Tribal Schools. He enjoyed this job but after starting chemotherapy he was too ill to drive bus, so he had to resign from his job. Leonard was diagnosed with lung cancer almost a year ago and was going to Sioux Falls every week for chemotherapy.

Leonard Mathias Marks loved life itself, he was always busy making the best time of each day that God gave him. He was grateful for each day that he was given to spend time with his wife, children, family and friends. He strived to make a better life for his wife and children; he taught his children to respect others and always lend a helping hand to those in need. Anyone that visited their home was offered hearty meal, friendship and laughter.

Leonard loved to sing and dance, even if he didn’t know the lyrics to the song he would make up his own! He liked to cook breakfast for his family; he made blueberry cheesecake from scratch. His favorite outdoor activities included fishing and horseshoes; he taught his son and daughters the game of horseshoes. Fishing was their favorite family outing; he liked to eat fish. His favorite past times were playing cards, bingo and going to garage sales!

Leonard will be remembered for his “wild” sense of humor; he liked to tease others and “raise hell” with them; even people he didn’t know. He always brought a smile or a laugh to his family, friends, and people he encountered on a daily basis. He was known by his family and friends as “Wolfman” Marks.

Leonard, you are greatly missed by your wife: Janette; daughters: Mary, Julia, Leona and sons: July and Jacob; sisters and brothers: Deanne Nazeri, Brian Adams, Jason Adams, Arlis Big Eagle, Durine Chase, Sarah Big Eagle, Mona Big Eagle, Tom Big Eagle, Tony Big Eagle, Bernard Big Eagle, Don Big Eagle, and David Big Eagle.

Leonard was preceded in death by his mother: Mildred; brothers and sisters: Randy Big Eagle, Tim Big Eagle, Joseph Big Eagle, and Etta Big Eagle.

In Loving Memory Of

Leonard Mathias Marks

January 11, 1958
Pierre, South Dakota

July 17, 2011
Big Bend, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICE

7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2011
St. Catherine’s Catholic Church
Big Bend, South Dakota

FINAL VIEWING

11:00 a.m., Friday, July 22, 2011
St. Catherine’s Catholic Church
Big Bend, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Father Christian Hendricks
Father Joseph Dean

CASKETBEARERS

Tom Big Eagle	Tony Big Eagle	Bernard Big Eagle
Don Big Eagle	David Big Eagle	Tim Big Eagle
Jacob Big Eagle		Darrel Lambie

Arrangements Entrusted To



Highmore, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

THE FAMILY CHAIN

If Love could have saved you –
You would not have died.
If tears could bring you back
You'd be by our side.

It broke our heart to lose you,
But you did not go alone;
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

God takes us one by one
And breaks the family chain.
But somewhere in a better land
Our chain will link again.



God saw he was getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around him
And whispered "Come with me."

With tearful eyes
We watched him suffer
And saw him fade away
Although we loved him dearly,
We would not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

In Loving Memory



Leonard M. Marks

1958 ~ 2011