

"Pete" was born at his home in Big Bend, South Dakota to Solomon and Ruth (Sargent) St. John on December 16, 1934. He was the second oldest of five siblings. He grew up farming and ranching alongside his Dad and Grandpa Joe at Bid Bend, SD. He attended Hidden Valley Day School at Big Bend, SD, and Stephan Immaculate Conception High School graduating in 1954. He was an accomplished and competitive all-around athlete and bronc-rider. He loved sports, rodeos, and Indian relay events. Throughout his life he played, taught, and sponsored pow-wow, sporting and rodeo teams, and events. At age 65, his sister Bennie had him in canvas high top tennis shoes playing in basketball benefit.

Pete met Doris Heuer during high school, and they married November 1957 of which seven children were born of this union. He was always active, proud, and generous in the lives of his children and grandchildren. Family and friends were a very important and fulfilling everyday part of his life.

Pete was a carpenter by trade and an all-around handyman. He would jump right in to help repair or build anything you asked of him. He worked many years for the Pierre Indian School, Snow Construction of Pierre, Homestake Sawmill of Spearfish, SD, Wahpeton Indian School of Wahpeton, ND and retired in 2005 to "home" at Big Bend, SD. He came out of retirement from 2006 to 2008 to serve as the Crow Creek Big Bend District Tribal Council Representative. During this time, he worked hard to follow his father's longtime Tribal Council service legacy to serve the people and move the Tribe forward. He retained a remarkably accurate memory of local people, events, and Tribal history up until his passing that he shared with others throughout his life. During his retirement years he enjoyed traveling to visit his children and grandchildren, their events, Indian rodeos, horse races and pow-wows. He looked forward to meeting up with his old high school buddies that was termed "the old cowboy hat section" to visit and reminisce.

Although Pete received numerous awards, honoring's, and gifts of appreciation throughout his life he remained a simple, generous, and humble man to all who knew him. He was a "cut to the chase" and "tell you like it is" kind of person. Pete was honored In March of 2008 at the Dakota Oyate All Indian Tournament at Huron, SD and again, in December of 2008 at the Lakota Nation Invitational Tournament as one of the three surviving team members of Stephan Immaculate Conception High School all Indian traveling basketball team for "of the team winning oftenest in 10 years" from 1952 to 1961 which the traveling basketball team was credited for the beginnings of the Dakota Oyate and LNI Tournaments continuing as a yearly event to this day. At the 2008 Dakota Oyate presentation Pete was given the original 1952 to 1961 traveling trophy for his participation and multiple awards as "All Tourney" and reminisced and displayed it proudly in honor of "his team that have gone on before me".

He leaves cherished loving memories for his daughters: Bernice (Kent) Walz of Sioux Falls, SD; Arlene Black Bird of rural Swiftbird, SD; Dawn (Jim) Palmer of Belle Fourche, SD; Crystal St. John of Sioux Falls, SD; one son, Duane St. John of Sioux Falls, SD; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Pete was preceded in death by his parents, Solomon and Ruth St. John; his two sisters, Benedicta Steve and Yvonne St. John; his three brothers: Odell, Guy, Justin St. John, and two "Hunka" brothers, Dominic and Kearney Red Water; son, Miles Pete St. John, Jr "Tek"; one daughter, Debra Jo St. John; and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Miles Peter St. John, Sr. "Wambli Ho"- Eagle Voice

December 16, 1934 – October 25, 2020

WAKE & COMFORT SERVICE

3:30 p.m., Thursday, October 29, 2020

Home of Pete St. John - Harrold, S.D.

**Due to increasing COVID-19 Thursday's
Wake and Comfort services at his house will be
open to immediate family,
pallbearers & honorary pallbearers only.**

FUNERAL MASS:

10:00 a.m., Friday, October 30, 2020

St. Catherine's Hall - Big Bend, S.D.

PALLBEARERS:

Kyle Kirkie, Wyatt St John, David Bordeaux

Josh Coleman, Richard Coleman Jr.

Matthias Mandan, Travis Walz

Jamie Palmer, Russell Kirkie

BURIAL FOLLOWING MASS:

Pete St. John Family Cemetery – Harrold, S.D.

(north of his house)

HONORARY PALLBEARERS:

Ross & Deb Hyde, Dick & Julie Hanson, John Meyer,

Eleanor Dunn, Jamie Fallis, Wes Parsons, Julia (Judy) Hattum,

Albert Hattum, Monte Gregg, Bill Gallagher, Terence & Rita Etzkorn

Classmates from Stephan Immaculate Conception High School.

A special thank you to Avera Hospice Jodi RN & Deb CNA

Forgive us if we have forgotten a precious family or friend.

**Friday's Mass, burial, and luncheon held at the Church Hall
after the burial is open to community but we will require COVID-19
precautions of masks, social distancing, elbows in place of hugs,
hand sanitizer or washing and limited attendance be practiced
to protect ALL of our precious family and friends.**

I THOUGHT OF YOU WITH LOVE TODAY

I thought of you with love today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
and the days before that too.
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name.
All I have are memories
and a picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake,
with which I'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.

Miles Peter St. John, Sr.
"Wambli Ho" - Eagle Voice

December 16, 1934 - October 25, 2020



A Cowboy's Prayer

Oh Lord, be with us here today as we stand around this arena to watch cowboys play. The game gets kind of tough, oh, Lord, but I guess you know that well. Sometimes we get a little wild and raise a little hell, but we're human, Lord, so guide us well today. Not only the contestants, but the children as they play. Just bless the hands and bless the crowd and keep them safe along the way. And please, Lord, bless all the bucking stock that we're using here today. We're sorry, Lord, about the messed up ole world, but the best we can do is try and hope someday that we'll meet in the big arena in the sky.

Arrangements Entrusted To

Luce, Luce & Reck
FUNERAL HOMES
www.familyfuneralhome.net