


# Thomas Jerad Big Eagle

March 19, 1951 – January 8, 2022



*An Indian Prayer*

O' GREAT SPIRIT,  
Whose voice I hear in the winds,  
And whose breath gives life to all the world,  
hear me! I am small and weak, I need your  
strength and wisdom.

LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make  
my eyes ever behold the red & purple sunset.

MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you  
have made and my ears sharp to hear your  
voice.


MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand  
the things you have taught my people.

LET ME LEARN the lessons you have  
hidden in every leaf and rock.

I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than  
my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy  
— myself.

MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to  
you with clean hands and straight eyes.

SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading  
sunset, my spirit may come to you without  
shame.



**I MADE IT HOME**

I just wanted to let you know that I made it home.  
The journey wasn't an easy one, but it didn't take  
too long. Everything is so pretty here, so white, so  
fresh, so new. I wish that you could close your  
eyes so you could see it too.  
Please try not to be sad for me.  
Try to understand.  
God is taking care of me...  
I'm in the shelter of His hands.  
Here there is no sadness, and  
no sorrow, and no pain.  
Here there is no crying,  
and I'll never hurt again.  
Here it is so peaceful,  
when all the angels sing.  
I really have to go for  
now... I've just got to  
try my wings.







Thomas Big Eagle, 70, of Fort Thompson, made his journey home, Saturday, January 8, 2022, at the Sanford Health Chamberlain Care Center.

Thomas (Tom) was born to Henry M. Big Eagle, Jr. and Mary Agnes (St. John) Big Eagle on March 19, 1951, in Big Bend, SD.

Family members took care of Thomas at home, but he was in too much pain and suffering. He was admitted to Sanford Hospital in Chamberlain, SD. He was transported to Sanford Hospital in Sioux

Falls the next day. Tom wanted to be home. All his life he spent in Big Bend; he didn't travel far from home.

Thomas was diagnosed with kidney cancer 4 years ago. He underwent chemotherapy treatments but the cancer advanced. Tom was tired and his body was in pain. Tom returned to Sanford Care Center in Chamberlain January 6, 2022 and passed away January 8, 2022.

Thomas enjoyed hunting and fishing with his brothers, nieces, nephews, and friends. He enjoyed throwing horseshoes with family and friends. He looked forward to the annual Big Eagle/Marks horseshoe tournament. Tom was a kind and quiet man. He was a generous man who didn't have many possessions but was always willing to share what he had. Tom was a self-taught handyman who had the skills to repair tires, mechanical problems and some electronics. He could always be counted on to help.

As a young man Tom worked for various farmers in the area. During one of these jobs, he lost part of his finger in a farm accident. Tom loved all his family, his nieces, nephews and grandchildren but he had a special place in his heart for his granddaughter, Viviannah. They would sit together and just visit about the cats, dogs, school, weather or whatever.

Grateful for sharing his life are his sisters: Arlis Big Eagle, Big Bend, Durine (Big Eagle) Chase, Big Bend, Janette (Big Eagle) Marks, Big Bend, Mona Big Eagle; brothers: Tony Big Eagle, Big Bend, Bernard Big Eagle, Pierre, SD, Donald (Madeline) Big Eagle, Sr.; and numerous nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Preceding Tom in death were his parents: Henry and Mary Agnes; brothers: Antoine, Joseph, Timothy, Sr., Randy, David, and Benjamin; and sisters: Antoinette and Henrietta.

#### **Wake Service:**

7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022  
St. Catherine's Church Hall  
Big Bend, South Dakota  
**\*\*Masks are Required\*\***

#### **Funeral Service:**

11:00 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2022  
St. Catherine's Church Hall  
Big Bend, South Dakota  
**\*\*Masks are Required\*\***

**Celebrant:** Father Christianus Hendrik

#### **Pallbearers:**

Donald Big Eagle, Sr.	Anthony Touche	Martin Big Eagle
Tony Big Eagle	Vincent Big Eagle	Kevin Big Eagle
Eric J Big Eagle	Benjamin Big Eagle	Jacob Big Eagle
Cory Chase In Winter	July Marks	Bernard Big Eagle
Bert Lafferty, III	Cody LeCompte	

#### **Honorary Pallbearers:**

Ted St. John	Wade Jenness	Donald Big Eagle, Jr.	Ronda Hawk
Alvin Chapman	Timothy Big Eagle, Jr.	Jim Fallis	Chris Gravatt
Nathan Withorn	Steven Shangreaux, Sr.	Wesley Shangreaux	

All Tom's nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and friends

#### **Music Selections:**

"Take My Hand Precious Lord"  
"In The Garden"  
"Amazing Grace"  
"How Great Thou Art"  
"Precious Memories"  
"What A Day That Will Be"

#### **Interment:**

St. Catherine's Cemetery  
Big Bend, South Dakota

**Arrangements Entrusted To**



Highmore, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)

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