

*"Rest high above the clouds,
no restriction"*

-Dave Matthews



Arrangements Entrusted To



Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net



Celebrating
A LIFE

Michael Clifton
James Pettit

April 3, 1962 - January 1, 2020

Michael Clifton James Pettit, 57, of Miller, passed away peacefully with his daughter by his side on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at the V.A. Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Mike was born to Jimmy and Colleen (Evans) Pettit in Anaheim, California. He was a middle brother to Paul and Anna. After his father's sudden passing, Colleen and the kids moved to South Dakota to join her family. There, she met and married a man named John Koeck. Mike gained a younger brother, John, in that union.

Growing up on a farm, Mike had Don around the farm until he was old enough to go to school. In November 15, 1979, he and his best friend, Tom Meehan, signed into the Army National Guard together. He proudly served his country until his retirement in March 2005. During his time as a Soldier, Mike earned the following awards: Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (5th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Medal (2nd Award), Army National Guard Recruit Badge, Global War on Terrorism Campaign Medal, Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Bar (2nd Award).

Mike was a bit of a perfectionist and, although he had no formal training, he could be considered an engineer or inventor. He would take something that was broken and make it new again. If he needed something that didn't exist, he would invent a solution. His ingenuity earned him the nickname "The Fixer" and served him well in his 15 years working for the Miller School District and 23 years with the SD Department of Transportation. He was a man of many talents and perfected them all – from restoring old vehicles, to brewing beer, to building rockets and large model train sets, to shooting, and so many more. He shared his love of the Second Amendment, showing off his gun collection and welcomed all to shoot in the dugout on his acreage.

His greatest talent was being a dad and grandpa, and he was very proud of his family. Mike married Linda Roberts in May 1980 and together had Laura and Alex. In June 1987, he married Ruth Schildknecht and added Michael Harry to complete the family.

Mike will be deeply missed by his children: Laura (Tony) Hanson and Michael H. (Samantha Tonak) Pettit; three grandchildren: Liz, Kadence, and Elijah; his mother, Colleen; siblings: Paul Pettit, Anna (Lee) Nolz, and John Koeck; his beloved border collie, Dolly; and many loving family members and friends.

Michael C. Pettit

April 3, 1962 - January 1, 2020

Prayer Service:

7:00 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

Miller, South Dakota

Special Music: "Angels"

by Dave Matthews Band

Funeral Service:

10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

Miller, South Dakota

Minister: Rev. Brian Jones

Musicians: Kim Jensen,
Lana Kopplin, Shaly Werdel

Music Selections:

"Hallelujah"

"You Raise Me Up"

Interment:

Morningside Cemetery

Ree Heights, South Dakota

Military Honors by the

South Dakota National Guard Honor Team

Polo VFW/Legion

*Immediately following the burial,
everyone is invited to return to the church for
lunch and fellowship with the family*