

*If Tomorrow Starts Without Me by David Romano*

If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see,  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me;  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.  
I know how much you care for me, and how much I care for you,  
and each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me too;  
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,  
that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand,  
and said my place was ready in heaven far above,  
and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.  
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,  
for all life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die.  
I had so much to live for and so much yet to do.  
it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.  
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.  
If I could relive yesterday, I thought, just for a while,  
I'd say goodbye and hug you and maybe see you smile.  
But then I fully realized that this could never be,  
for emptiness and memories would take the place of me.  
And when I thought of worldly things that I'd miss come tomorrow.  
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.  
But when I walked through Heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.  
When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne,  
He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you,  
Today your life on earth is past but here it starts anew.  
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last.  
and since each day's the same, there's no longing for the past.  
But you have been so faithful, so trusting, so true.  
Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do.  
And you have been forgiven and now, at last, you're free.  
So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?"  
So if tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
for every time you think of me, please know I'm in your heart.

*In Loving Memory*  
CELEBRATING A LIFE

**Wake Service:** 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 29, 2025  
St. Thomas Catholic Church - Faulkton, South Dakota

**Funeral Mass:** 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 30, 2025  
St. Thomas Catholic Church - Faulkton, South Dakota

**Celebrant:** Father John Short

**Casketbearers:**

Casey Cooper - Corey Cooper - Levi Broer - Cody Haman  
Chas Haman - Lane Melius - Jaden Melius - Chase Melius

**Altar Servers:** Philip Holsing & Ava Arbach

**Lector:** Deb Weinreich

**Offertory:** Taylor & Dustin Poor

**Eucharistic Minister:** Mary Ann Bent

**Musician:** Jerry Bowar

**Music Selections:**

Opening: "How Great Thou Art"

Offertory: "You Are Mine"

Communion: "I am the Bread of Life"

"Song of Farewell"

Closing: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

**Burial:** St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery  
Orient, South Dakota

Hope Strength



IN LOVING  
*Memory*

**Darrell "Pete" Lee Witte**

November 2, 1937 - August 26, 2025



Darrell “Pete” Witte, 87, of Pierre and formerly of Faulkton, passed away Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at the Faulkton Senior Living.

Darrell “Pete” Witte was born November 2, 1937, to Art and Mildred Witte at their farm in Hand County. They later moved north of Orient, where he attended school. Pete joined the Navy the day after he turned 17 years old. He served as a Radioman Second Class on the USS Walton destroyer escort. It was fun having him tell us how our name sounded in Morse code. His ship was involved in atomic weapons testing. Though this testing and his service to our country led to the cancer that took his life, he was recognized in October of 2023 by receiving the Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal for his participation in these tests.

After his time in the service, he returned to the Faulkton area, where he worked for Bachmeyer Lumber. Later, he and Delbert Wild ran the local Texaco Service Station. He shared with us that if a kid came in with a bicycle, he would drop what he was doing, fix the bicycle tire, thank them for coming, and not charge them. He would often give them a candy from behind the counter. He hoped that when they grew up, they would come in for lunch, which we all know he would thoroughly enjoy visiting with them and swapping stories.

On March 2, 1965, he married Mary Catherine Weideman. He and Mary were quickly blessed with four daughters within 5 years of being married! From this moment on, his life was spent being outnumbered by any family vote. After moving to Pierre in 1976, they made many family memories boating, where he would spend all day as the boat captain, dragging the girls and any friends on skis or tubes, while Mary served as the beach supervisor. Not having any boys, his girls got to learn a lot from him, like how to

change the oil and tires on their cars, drive fun cars, and ride motorcycle. He was not only a father of 4 girls, but also a father figure to a lot of the girls’ friends.

In addition to being at the beach, he worked with Paul Worm at Triple A Well Drilling. Later, he went to work as the Pesticide Specialist with the Division of Regulatory Services for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Following retirement from the State, he kept busy delivering oxygen for PSI, providing maintenance for the Pierre Mall, providing neighborhood watch through his window, and always enjoyed spending time visiting with anyone who would take the time. For those who took the time, his door and heart were always open for conversation. He was quite the storyteller, and later in life, we found out some of them were true! Like the military investigation that verified he actually did join the Navy the day after turning 17 and WAS involved in atomic bomb testing. And that he rode a steer back-to-back with Duane Smith, which Smitty recently verified as also being true. He claimed to have ridden bulls, bareback, and raced cars, and didn’t break a bone doing any of those. Maybe he actually did?!

Pete will be forever loved by his wife, Mary of Faulkton; four girls: Deb Witte (Chuck Cooper) of Sioux Falls, Tina (Bryon) Henningsen of Pierre, Dawn (Kelly) Melius of Faulkton, and Tami (John) Haman of Chester. He will be missed by his grandchildren: Casey Cooper (Summer Sones) of Box Elder, Corey Cooper (Ashley Bonebright) of Hartford, Levi Broer of Ridgeland, Wisconsin, Sarah (Max) Mitchell of Thomasville, Georgia, Taylor (Dustin) Poor of Aberdeen, soon to be Faulkton, Lane Melius (Shauna Pauli) of Faulkton, Jaden Melius (Trinity Kindt) of Faulkton, Chase Melius of Faulkton, Cody Haman of Marion, Chas Haman of Garretson; his great grandsons: Odin Mitchell, Ivan Mitchell, and Raylan Poor; his siblings and

spouses: Burt and Pauline Witte, Judy and Duane Smith, Chuck and Bridgette Witte, Mary Ann Worm, Gordon and Karen Witte.

Pete was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Mildred Witte; father and mother-in-law, August and Elaine Weideman; siblings and in-laws: Charles and Ardyce Hadrick, Jim and Donna Witte, Patty Meier, and Paul Worm; nephews, James Worm and Charles Witte; and great-nephew, Shadoe Pfeifer.

