

Miss me a little, but not for long.
Go on with your life - laugh & **BE STRONG**
Don't dwell on my passing with sorrow and tears.

Be happy!

We've had many wonderful years.
We've hoped, we've dreamed,
we've struggled and learned.
We've found life worthwhile wherever we've turned.
Our days have been full. We've savored so much -
Good friends, shared **JOYS** & the family touch.
So miss me awhile, but don't feel alone.
A lifetime of caring cannot be undone.
Be still and listen, your heart knows it's true:

Though you can't feel my touch,
I Am Always With You.

*Arrangements Entrusted to
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net*



IN LOVING
Memory

RICHARD VAN ZEE

DECEMBER 11, 1940 - OCTOBER 22, 2021

RICHARD L. VAN ZEE, 80, OF FLANDREAU AND FORMERLY OF MILLER, PASSED AWAY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 AT THE SIOUX FALLS V.A. MEDICAL CENTER.

RICHARD LEROY VAN ZEE WAS BORN DECEMBER 11, 1940 AT HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA TO ANTONIA (THOMAS) AND HELEN (JONES) VAN ZEE. HE ATTENDED GRADE SCHOOL AT THE HORSE SHOE SCHOOL; LATER HE ATTENDED SUNSHINE BIBLE ACADEMY FROM 1955-1956 AND CONTINUED HIS EDUCATION AT THE MILLER PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATING IN 1959. WHILE ATTENDING MILLER, HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN 4-H, GETTING MANY AWARDS. RICHARD WON A TRIP TO THE WESTERN LIVESTOCK SHOW IN DENVER, CO AND A TRIP TO THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS IN CHICAGO, IL. UPON GRADUATION, HE ENROLLED AT SDSU IN BROOKINGS, SD. HE HELPED A LOT AND WORKED IN THE SHEEP UNIT. ON WEEKENDS, RICHARD WOULD SHOW SHEEP FOR A RANCHER THAT RAISED TOP SHEEP. RICHARD TRAVELED TO MANY STATE FAIRS TO SHOW HIS SHEEP. HE ALSO BELONGED TO MANY ORGANIZATIONS WHILE IN ROTC. ONE OF HIS HIGHLIGHTS WAS WINNING THE LITTLE INTERNATIONAL IN 1953. HE MAJORED IN ANIMAL SCIENCE WITH AN ECONOMICS AND ROTC MINOR.

RICHARD RECEIVED HIS ROTC COMMISSION AS 2ND LT IN THE ARMY IN 1965 AND WENT ON ACTIVE DUTY IN 1965. IN 1966, HE WAS SHIPPED TO KOREA WHERE HE SPENT 14 MONTHS. AFTER HIS DUTY, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO FT. HARRISON IN INDIANA, JOINING THE US ARMY RESERVES UNTIL 1979.

IN AUGUST OF 1971, HE MARRIED SHARON GWIN. THEY DIVORCED IN 1980. IN MAY OF 1982, HE MARRIED JUNE REZEK IN MILLER, SD ON MOTHER'S DAY.

RICHARD RETIRED FROM PAC LEASE OF INDIANAPOLIS. TO WHICH, AT THIS TIME, HE STARTED RAISING CATTLE, CALVES FOR 4-H, CHICKENS, AND PHEASANTS.

RICHARD IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, JUNE, OF 39 YEARS; SPECIAL CHILDREN: GARY (JUDY KAREN) REZEK, KAREN (CHARLIE) HARR, AND JANET (JIM) MERTZ; SPECIAL GRANDCHILDREN: JAYME (BEN) FAST, LINDSAY (MITCH) ERICKSON, AND JOSHUA MERTZ; SPECIAL GREAT GRANDCHILDREN: SAM AND CLAIRE FAST; SPECIAL FRIENDS, ERIC AND BEN KAREN; BROTHERS: DALE (CHERYL) VAN ZEE, LARRY (SHERRY) VAN ZEE, AND RAY VAN ZEE; SISTER, DE VAN ZEE; SISTER-IN-LAW, LAELA VAN ZEE; AND MANY NIECES AND NEPHEWS.

HE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS PARENTS, THOMAS AND HELEN; INFANT BROTHER, DAVID; BROTHER, GAYLON; SPECIAL GREAT GRANDCHILD, LUCAS FAST; AND MANY AUNTS AND UNCLES.

VISITATION

1:00 - 2:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021
RECK FUNERAL HOME
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021
RECK FUNERAL HOME
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA

OFFICIANT

SHANNON VAN ZEE

CASKETBEARERS

WYATT VAN ZEE - JEREMY VAN ZEE
JOSHUA VAN ZEE - JASON VAN ZEE
MATT VAN ZEE - BARRY VAN ZEE
TERRY VAN ZEE - JERRY VAN ZEE
KYLE VAN ZEE - SHANNON VAN ZEE

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS

CHARLIE HAAR
JIM MERTZ
BEN FAST - MITCH ERICKSON

MUSICIAN

JANET MERTZ

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"THROUGH THE YEARS"
"YOU NEEDED ME"
"IN THE GARDEN"
"GO REST HIGH ON THAT MOUNTAIN"
"THE BLESSING"

INTERMENT

ST. LAWRENCE CEMETERY
ST. LAWRENCE, SOUTH DAKOTA