

Marcella Rose Ryan LeBeau, Wígmun̄ke Wašté Wín (Pretty Rainbow Woman), of the Cheyenne River Oóhenuŋpa (Two Kettle) Lakota Nation was 102 years young when she started her journey to the star nation. She passed away on November 21, 2021, in Eagle Butte, SD surrounded by family. Marcella was born in Promise, SD on October 12, 1919, to Joseph M. and Florence (Four Bear) Ryan. Marcella was the second oldest of five children: Eugene, Johanna, Michael (Mike), and Leo. Marcella embraced caregiving at an early age by caring for her mother and little brother Leo before they passed.

Her Grandmother Louise Bear Face passed her Lakota name onto Marcella with a raspberry-colored shawl. Marcella and her siblings were sent to boarding school after her grandmother's passing. She continued to understand the profound impact Indian Boarding Schools had on her and others. She encouraged the community to become aware and educated on historical trauma. Feeling as though she did not receive an adequate education at boarding school, Marcella enrolled in Nurse's Training at Pierre, SD under the Benedictine sisters.

At the age of 23, and having no prior intention to do so, Marcella enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. During World War II, she served in England, France, and Belgium. Her grace under adverse conditions was prevalent in all her stories of World War II. Marcella ended her career in the Army as a First Lieutenant. She says, to serve, it was the greatest honor of her life. Upon returning from the war, she worked as a registered nurse for 31 years.

In 1947, she married Gilbert LeBeau and together they had eight children: Daniel, Diane, Richard, Bonnie, Tom, Gerri, Kathy, and Donna. Later in life, she would say she was "best of all" a grandma and great-grandma. Marcella remained active in organizations and advocacy. She was particularly proud of being a founding member of both NAIWA (Native American Indian Women's Association) and NARP. She served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council from 1990-1994 and launched a no-smoking campaign. She assisted in repatriating a ceremonial Ghost Dance shirt from a museum in Scotland. She gave testimony to Congress in support of the Remove the Stain Act. The Act proposes to rescind medals from the U.S. Cavalry who committed murder at the Wounded Knee Massacre.

In 2004, Marcella was awarded the French Legion of Honor, the highest honor given to an individual by the French government, for her service in World War II. She was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2006. She was awarded the Women in History Award from the Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2016. In 2018, she received an honorary doctorate degree from South Dakota State University. In 2020, the National Congress of the American Indian recognized her with a leadership award, USA Today named her as one of the most influential women of the century. On November 6, 2021, she was inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame.

Marcella is survived by daughter, Diane (Bob) Booth, Ridgeview; son, Tom LeBeau, Rapid City; daughters, Gerri LeBeau, Rapid City, Kathy (Nial High Hawk) LeBeau, and Donna (Allan S.) LeBeau, both of Eagle Butte; Cynthia Cleveland, Eagle Butte; grandchildren: Yvette Goesyon, Brandon (Erllyssa) LeBeau; LeAnn (Justin) Bennett, Sharon (Stan) Francis, Bethany (Justin) Nephew, Aaron LeBeau, Nathan LeBeau, Daniel (Melody) LeBeau; Brad Moran; Meghan and Morghan LeBeau; Lori (Greg) Flaitz; Robert Booth, Ben Booth; Bonnie LeBeau, Richard Ryan (Jerris Veaux) LeBeau, Ryman (Lesli White Dog) LeBeau; Heather LeBeau, Dawn E. LeBeau; Wyoma Waters; Nichol LeBeau, Johanna Farmer, Felicia Farmer, Mattea Farmer; Michelle LeBeau, Jade (Dre'mys Cook) LeBeau; Jacinda Lind, Lania (Tiger Condon) Lind; 46 Great-Grandchildren; and 4 Great-Great Grandchildren, In addition, she is survived by some important people to her: Cynthia Cleveland, daughter-in-law, Sharon Smith, daughter-in-law, Maneesha Ryan, sister-in-law, all of her nieces and nephews and all of their children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Florence Ryan; brothers Eugene, Mike, and Leo; sister Johanna; daughter Bonnie; sons Daniel (Wife, Christine Maybee LeBeau) and Richard; granddaughters Julia Shannon LeBeau and Marcella Booth; twin grandsons Faron and Emmitt LeBeau.

## *In Loving Memory of:*



*Marcella Rose*

*Ryan LeBeau*

*Wígmun̄ke Wašté Wín*

*October 12, 1919 ~ November 21, 2021*



### ***TAPESTRY***

*I was raised  
In a fabric of family  
That was woven  
Before I was born  
I was wrapped in it  
And raised in the folds  
Of its love and warmth  
Each family member  
A unique and intricate  
Part of its design  
Many of these relatives  
Helped in the raising  
Of my parents and of me  
I grew to love them all dearly  
I learned stories of  
My family's past  
While being woven  
Into its present  
Many of these  
Special people are  
No longer with us  
Still I cherish having known  
And loved each of them  
Their passings have  
Left great rents  
In the fabric of my life  
Yet the weaving continues  
With each new generation*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

# ***Marcella Rose Ryan LeBeau***

## ***Wigmunke Wašté Wįn***

*102 Years ~ 40 Days*

### **WAKE SERVICES:**

*7:00 PM, Friday, November 26, 2021*

*C-EB High School Auditorium*

*Eagle Butte, South Dakota*

### **CASKETBEARERS:**

*Stanley Franics ~ Jairon Nephew ~ Blake Farlee ~ Nehemiah Veaux*

*Joiah Veaux ~ NaShon LeBeau ~ Richard Ryze LeBeau*

*Pierce LeBeau ~ Ashten Ganje ~ Tristan Blue Coat*

*Tokala Tokala Waloke ~ Maka Sha Alope ~ Jade LeBeau*

### **OFFICIATING:**

*Mother Ellen Huber ~ Father Kurt Huber*

**DRUM GROUP:** *Wakinyan Maza*

**MILITARY ROLL CALL:** *Brent Curry, Commander Post #308*

### **USHERS:**

*LeAunah LeBeau ~ Ashten Ganje*

*NaShon LeBeau ~ Elisha Jaiz Mendoza ~ Allen Shillingstad*

### **FUNERAL SERVICES:**

*10:00 AM, Saturday, November 27, 2021*

*C-EB High School Auditorium*

### **OFFICIATING:**

*Mother Ellen Huber ~ Father Kurt Huber*

*Mother Margaret Watson, Guest*

**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Sharon Walden*

**EULOGY:** *Johanna Farmer*

### **SINGERS:**

*Aaron LeBeau ~ "Hallelujah"*

*Susie Payne ~ "The Rose"*

*Carole Traversie, Shirley Dog Eagle, Valery Curley*

*"Amazing Grace in Lakota, Hymn #120"*

*Gabby Knife*

**DRUM GROUP:** *Wakinyan Maza*

### **CASKETBEARERS:**

*Robert Booth ~ Ben Booth ~ Ryan LeBeau ~ Ryman LeBeau*

*Brandon LeBeau ~ Aaron LeBeau ~ Daniel LeBeau ~ Mike Ryan*

### **HONORARY BEARERS:**

*All Marcella's Grandchildren, Great Grand Children, Family & Friends*

### **USHERS:**

*LeAunah LeBeau ~ Ashten Ganje ~ NaShon LeBeau*

*Elisha Jaiz Mendoza ~ Allen Shillingstad*