

Special Honorary Guests

Hunkpati Dakota Nation Tribal Council
 Daryl George Howe
 Kyle Loudner
 Christine Obago
 CCST Ambulance Staff
 Ruff Ryders Basketball Team
 UTTC Thunderbirds Men's Basketball Team
 UTTC Advisors & Professors
 Crow Creek High School Class of 2005
 Bad Nation Men's Basketball Team
 CC Gunz Men's Basketball Team
 Lyle & Milo Medicine Crow & Family
 Ronnette Kirkie & Family
 Wes Thompson Sr. & Family
 Wylie Bears Tail
 Wes Bears Tail
 Bronson Koenig
 Christina "Mama Bumper" Seeking Land
 Rozelle & Darrell Lockwood
 Marveen Ross
 Savannah St. John
 Lisa Rockwood & Family
 Bradyn Brother of All
 Anthony "AB" Barker
 Kenny Miller
 Brenda & Joe Sazue II
 Wanda Gourneau
 Eric Sazue
 Rich Coleman Sr
 Michael Langdeau
 Darshawn Ducheneaux
 Talon Bazille Ducheneaux
 Jesi Shanley
 Marla Collins


Peter Lengkeek
 Frankee Hall
 Fabian Howe Sr.
 CCST Finance Staff
 Russell Kirkie
 Kasey & Kingston Kirkie
 Tommy "Joj" Kirkie
 Kelvin Kirkie
 Tyson & Jess Heart
 Daelen High Wolf
 Jack Red Bird
 Brandon Yellow
 Travis Albers
 Dusty Haigel
 Daryl Bears Tail
 Jarvis Bears Tail
 Lance Eaglestaff & Family
 Teah & Kira Seeking Land
 Amanda & Mike Deville
 Fancy Ross
 Hailey Ross
 Laura Red Fox
 Joe Sazue III
 Lyle Miller Sr.
 Carl Medicine Crow Jr.
 Joshua Valandra
 Steve & Francine Middletent
 Rick Voice
 Heath Langdeau
 Tyson Langdeau
 Racheal Middletent
 Dusty Harrison-Meyer
 Tashina "Tek 9" Kirkie
 Matt Plume

Forthen there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:21

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

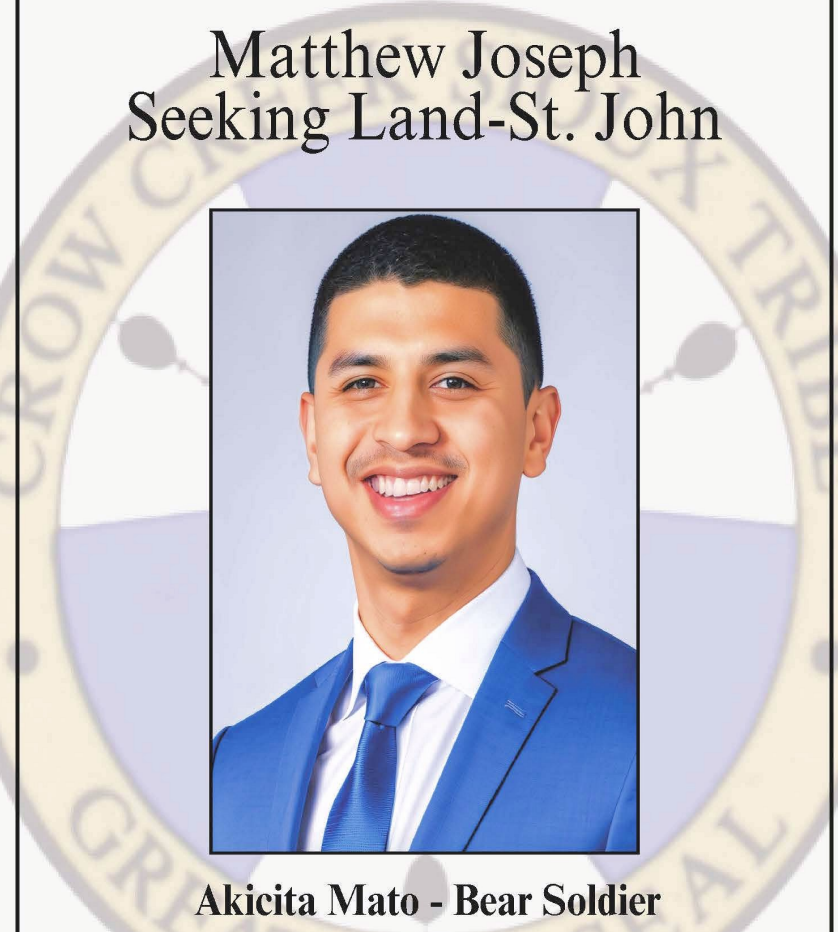


Matthew Joseph Seeking Land-St. John



Akicita Mato - Bear Soldier

MAY 13, 1986-DECEMBER 27, 2023

HUNKPATI DAKOTA ITANCAN
 CROW CREEK TRIBAL LEADER
 DESCENDANT OF CHIEF DRIFTING GOOSE

MATTHEW JOSEPH SEEKING LAND - ST. JOHN

MAY 13, 1986 - DECEMBER 27, 2023

Wake Services

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024
7:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024
CROW CREEK TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
FORT THOMPSON, SD

Funeral Services

10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024
CROW CREEK TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
FORT THOMPSON, SD

Officiating

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH TEAM
TRADITIONAL SERVICES - LONDELL SEABOY

Casketbearers

Ray Crow	Jon St. John
Josh Seeking Land	Jay St. John
Jacob Seeking Land	Teton Ducheneaux
Lakota Sepulveda	Gregory "Bim" Seeking Land
Tayeden Seeking Land	Kevin St. John
Anfernee Seeking Land	Joaquin Sepulveda
Delmar Clown	Team Dime
RJ Weddell	Jack Iron Boulder
Albert "Buc" Fallis Sr.	Kellan St. John
Miles Chasing Hawk	Matt Red Bear
Les "Sleepy" Marks	Mike Prue
Steve Marks	Juan "JD" Howell
Derek "Coco" Marks Sr.	Trey Seeking Land

Interment

LAKEVIEW CEMETERY
FORT THOMPSON, SD

Matthew Joseph Seeking Land-St. John was born on May 13, 1986, to Lorie Seeking Land and Kelley St. John at Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD. Raised by both Seeking Land and St. John families, his upbringing was deeply influenced by his Great- Grandparents, Mary Ann & Ed Barker, and together they raised a very intelligent, kindhearted and respectful warrior. Matthew's given name, Akicita Mato, "Bear Soldier" was handed down to him from his Great-Grandpa Ed Barker.

Matthew attended Crow Creek Tribal Schools for the majority of his life, becoming one of the most decorated student-athletes in Chieftain history. He excelled academically, receiving countless accolades such as Student of the Year, "A" Honor Roll and Talented and Gifted Program honors. He played multiple sports but his athletic prowess and passion was evident in Basketball. He loved to compete and win, and dedicated his time and energy to perfecting his craft. He would be at the School waiting for the kitchen ladies to get in the gym and practice before school. He hoped any chance he got and to continue playing all year long, with the help of his mom, he created the Ruff Ryders basketball team., achieving victories in tournaments across the US. Matthew was devoted to being the best player and teammate, always talking Basketball, he generously shared knowledge and tips to help his team and friends be the best too. Beyond his talent and decorative style of play, he was humble and self-sacrificing, often giving his awards, trophies and winnings, even his clothes and shoes, to his teammates and friends.

By the end of High School, Matthew was known as "Hot Water" on the Basketball court and "HOV" in the classroom. He was also a Lakota Nation Invitational Champion, Dakota Oyate Challenge Champion, District and Region Champion, State "A" Tournament contestant, finishing 4th place and Most Valuable Player as a Freshman and Senior. Matthew experienced and overcame many life changing obstacles in High School and graduated at the top of his Class in 2005.

Matthew continued his education at Presentation College for a semester and then transferred to United Tribes Technical College (UTTC). After completing one semester of the Construction Technology Program, he enrolled in the Small Business Management Program. He excelled in the Program, earning recognition on the Dean's List and as an Honorary Graduate, and completing an Associate of Applied Science Degree. After graduating, he was recommended for the first UTTC Bachelor's of Business Management Program. In the new Program, he was selected for the NASA/AIHEC Summer Research Experience (SRE) Internship and presented an award winning project on NASA Remote Sensing/GIS Training at the Tribal College Forum VII: Climate Crisis and Water Nations are calling for an Awakening in Lawrence, KS. As an academic standout, he received the Best Attitude on Campus award, Graduate Honors in Business Law and Principles of Management by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Matthew graduated as an Honorary Student with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. During his time at UTTC, he was also part of the Thunderbirds Men's Basketball Team, UTTC Men's Basketball Leagues and Wellness Programs.

Matthew entered the work force early in life, often working for his mom's businesses, he stocked shelves at Drifting Goose Road Stop, and worked construction every summer for her contracting company, Drifting Goose Construction. His work ethic led him to further his professional experience and employment at Crow Creek Housing Authority, Circle of Life and finally, our Hunkpati Dakota Nation and Crow Creek Tribal Government. In June 2012, he was hired as a Water Quality Technician for our Environmental Programs (EPA). After a year in the position, he was selected for the Water Quality Coordinator position and served our Tribe in that capacity for seven (7) years. Matthew loved his job and working for our Tribe, but he knew he was needed by our People and with the support of his family and loved ones, he decided to run for Tribal Council and Leadership position. In 2020, he was voted for and elected by Tribal members to his first term as Tribal Councilmember and Representative of Fort Thompson District. He led and protected our People through a worldwide pandemic and numerous challenges. His impactful initiatives, advocacy for advancement, and unwavering support for Tribal and members interests, he was re-elected to Tribal Council for the 2022-2024 term.

One of his most valued accomplishments as a Tribal Leader was the renovation of our Tribal Gymnasium. He wanted to create a safe and positive space for our People, especially for our Youth. He also assisted in the establishment of various Tribal Businesses and Programs, including Hunkpati Meat Processors, Hunkpati Propane, Hunkpati Sand and Gravel, MMIW Awareness Program, High Plainz Dispensary, Tribal Farm and Ranch, Unci's House, and the re-implementation of the General Welfare and Assistance Program. Matthew was always the first one to make a motion or vote for requests that were in the best interest of our People and he was given the nickname, "Motion Matt".

Matthew is survived by his son, Ray Crow, his soulmate and Bae, Mariah Pearl Sazue, his mother Lorie Ann Seeking Land, his father Kelley St. John, his brothers Jacob Seeking Land and Josh (Brittney) Seeking Land, his maternal grandmother, Carole Seeking Land, his uncles and aunts: Christina "Mama Bumper" Seeking Land, Gregory "Bim" Seeking Land, Bonnie St. John, Brenda St. John, Sandra Sepulveda, Glenda St. John, Mary St. John, Odell "Muggs" St. John, Jim St. John, Kevin St. John and special aunt Cheryl Susie Voice. He was loved by numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and dear friends.

Welcoming him through the Milky Way, will be his and Mariah's Son, Matthew Joseph Seeking Land Jr., Great-Grandparents, Mary Ann & Ed Barker, Odell & Doris St. John, Hosea & Eunice (Day) Ree, Solomon & Ruth (Sargeant) St. John, Grandpa Emery Loudner, Uncles Emery, Victor, Phillip and Keith St. John, Aunt Carlita St. John, Cousins Taelonna Seeking Land, Gaston Voice, Tammy St. John, his bro Vinnie Brewer, and Seeking Land Descendant - Chief Drifting Goose.

A proud Hunkpati, Matthew cherished his loved ones, people, our history and culture. He voted and advocated for us until his last moments. His legacy includes the positive impact he made on the Hunkpati Nation through his leadership, compassion and resilience. Matthew Joseph Seeking Land-St. John will be remembered as a dedicated and genuine Hunkpati Dakota warrior and leader.

**When Eagles fly I will be with them.
Our ancestors, my son,
grama Marie and Grampa Ed arewelcoming me.
Tunkasila holy god will whisper in the wind
that I love you,
find happiness in each day, help each other.
No darkness, no pain, no worry,
no fear - it's beautiful,
I am a spirit of pure light surrounded in your love,
living in gods heaven.
I will be with you, stand on your faith in love
and let the spirit of god keep you strong.
Loneliness will visit but turn it away,
it has no place in your home,
I live in your heart and I am with you always,
talk to me everyday.
I take my place with the lord god Tunkasila
and our spirit family,
I am healed.
I love you all,
Matt**

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