

Waldo's Journey

From Fort Yates' quiet river shore,
A gentle soul we cherish evermore.
In childhood's halls and boarding school,
He found his strength, his steadfast rule.

A bus driver's seat, his daily place,
Guiding young hearts with steady grace.
Three decades passed, yet love remained,
In every mile, his care sustained.

Through casino halls with friends at side,
In laughter, work, and quiet pride,
A hunter's spirit, wild and free,
With stories shared beside the tree.

His family close, his greatest joy,
Grandchildren, laughter, tales to deploy.
A Broncos fan with steady cheer,
Their biggest fan year after year.

The land, the river, home's embrace,
In every memory, every place.
Though health may falter, spirits fly,
Waldo's light will never die.

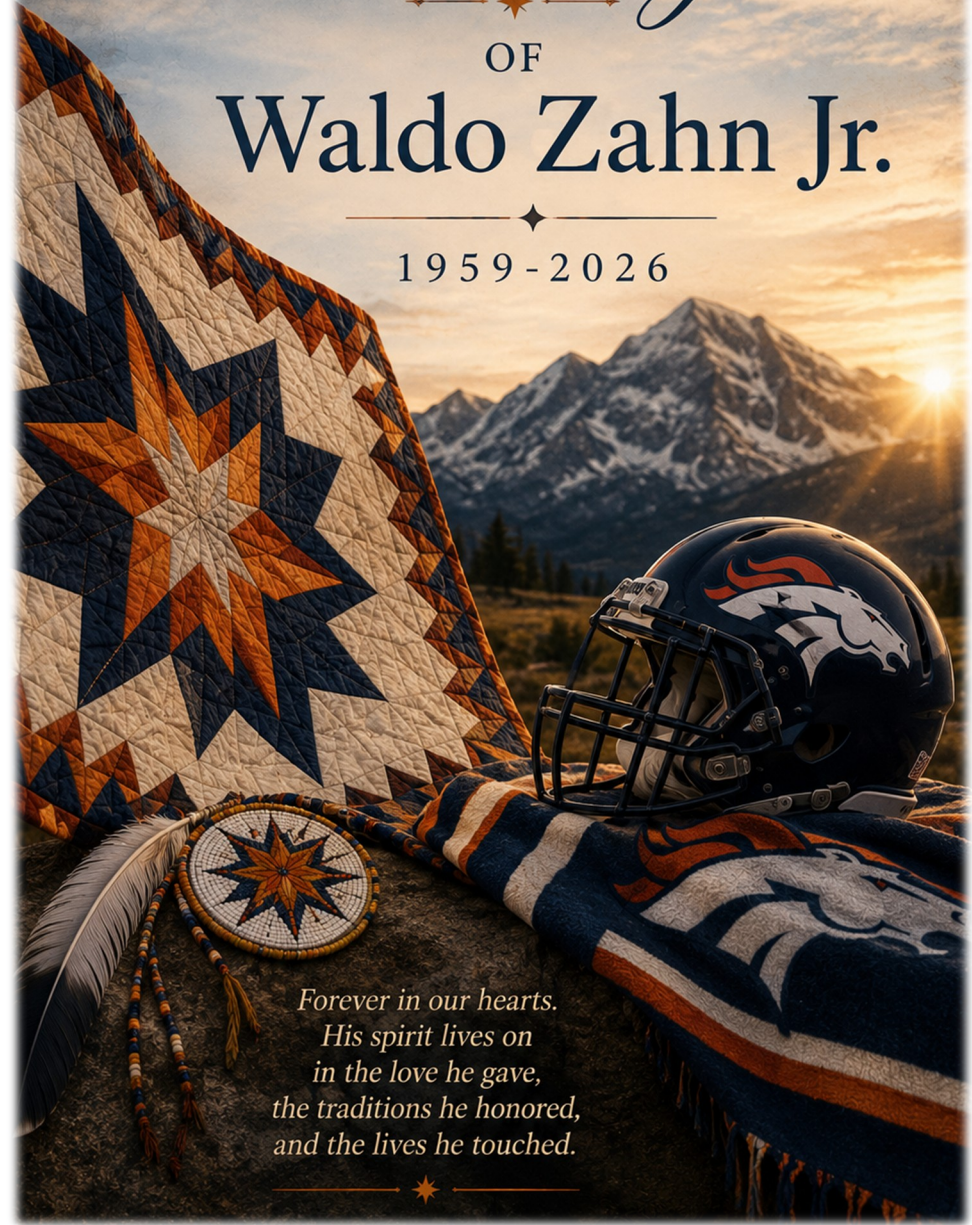
A humble strength, a heart so kind,
His presence lingers in our minds.
Though he has journeyed on ahead,
His love and laughter are not dead.

Forever woven in our hearts,
Though physically we're apart,
Waldo's spirit, strong and true,
Lives within me and you.



IN LOVING Memory OF Waldo Zahn Jr.

1959 - 2026



Forever in our hearts.
His spirit lives on
in the love he gave,
the traditions he honored,
and the lives he touched.

Waldo William Zahn Jr., "Akicita Najin" (Standing Soldier), age 67, passed away on May 31, 2026, in Mandan, surrounded by the love of his children. His passing leaves a quiet ache, yet his memory remains a gentle, steady light for everyone who knew him.

Waldo was born in Fort Yates, ND, to Helen Felix and Waldo Zahn Sr. He spent his childhood in Fort Yates, White Shield, and Jamestown, each community shaping him in meaningful ways. He attended Wahpeton Boarding School for most of his early years, where he learned resilience, independence, and the importance of family. He later graduated from Kicking Horse Job Corps with his GED and training as a diesel mechanic, a trade he was proud to master. After completing his education, Waldo returned home and began working for the Fort Yates Public School as a bus driver, a role he held for 30 years. It was more than a job; it was a place where he found purpose. He cared deeply for the students he transported, offering them safety, consistency, and kindness every day. Following his retirement from the school, Waldo began a new chapter at Prairie Knights Casino, where he worked in Maintenance, Security, and eventually as a Slot Technician. His coworkers respected him, and many became lifelong friends. No matter the role, Waldo brought dedication, humor, and a steady presence that people relied on.

Waldo was also an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved the outdoors, and he loved the stories that came with it - the hunting adventures, the tall tales, and the legendary buck that always managed to get away. He was fortunate to hunt alongside his children, brothers, nephews, friends, and later his grandchildren, as soon as they were old enough to join him. These moments became treasured memories for everyone who shared them with him.

He also enjoyed visiting casinos whenever he could, traveling to Grand River, Four Bears, and Dakota Magic, which were among his favorites. And above all, his greatest joy was simply spending time with his family and grandchildren - visiting, laughing, and cheering on his favorite NFL team, the Denver Broncos. He truly was one of their biggest fans.

Waldo made his home in Fort Yates, ND, where he lived until he suffered a stroke. The land, the river, and the community were woven into the fabric of his life. Even as his health changed, the spirit of Fort Yates - and the life he built there - remained close to him and to those who loved him.

Throughout his 67 years, Waldo lived with sincerity and purpose. He carried himself with a humble strength, offering support in ways that were thoughtful, dependable, and caring. Whether through a warm smile, unwavering humor, a listening ear, or the simple comfort of his presence, he made the world softer for the people around him.

Waldo is survived by his five daughters who were the pride of his life: Wynette (Joseph) Snider, LeeDawn (Shane) Ramsey, Amy (Landin) Carry Moccasin, Courtney (Noah) Kills Pretty Enemy, and Blossom (Layne) Cadotte. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren: Alexandria, Kaleb, Joey, Lincoln, Allister, Everly, Kenzington, Dillon and Marceline. He is further survived by his siblings: Valerie (John) Eagle Shield, Theresa (David) Holter, and Melvin Martinez; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that he cherished and adored, who will remember him with love and gratitude for the bond they shared.

Waldo was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Waldo Sr; brother, Nick; sister, Twyla; his son, Carl Kidder; the mother of his children, Carla Kidder; nephews, Erick Three Legs, Nevada and Jay Twinn, Larry Jr., and Justin Fox; niece, Catherine Fox; and grandson, Erick Three Legs. Their memories now join his, carried together in the hearts of those who remain.

Those who knew him will definitely remember his humor, his resilience, and the way he could brighten a room without ever trying. Though his absence leaves a space that words cannot fill, his spirit remains woven into the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.



Please scan the QR code
to view Waldo's
Celebration of Life video.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WALDO ZAHN JR.



Wake Service & All-Night Vigil

Thursday, June 4, 2026; 7:00 PM

AJ Agard Multi Cultural Center, Fort Yates

Presider ~ Brother George Maufort

Funeral Service

Friday, June 5, 2026; 10:00 AM

AJ Agard Multi Cultural Center, Fort Yates

Officiants ~ Brother George Maufort & Allen Flying Bye

Musicians

Drum Group

Casketbearers

Larson Fast Horse, Kaleb Snider, Joey Snider

Lincoln Carry Moccasin, John Eagle Shield Jr.

Denver Three Legs, Melvin Martinez Jr., & Layne Cadotte

Scripture Readings

Job 19:1, 23-27 ~ Psalm 25 ~ Romans 5:5 ~ John 6:37-40

Committal Service

Kidder Family Cemetery, rural Fort Yates

Immediately following the funeral service

*The family invites you for food & fellowship at the
AJ Agard Multi Cultural Center immediately following the burial service.*