

In Loving Memory of
Martin Thomas "Tom" Ziegler

April 17, 1964 ~ May 21, 2026

Hang My Saddle On the Wall

Hang my saddle on the wall,
Hang it gently by the stall,
Hang my bridle by its side,
We have gone on our last ride.

Oft we rode the range together,
Sun and wind and stormy weather;
O'er the hills and o'er the prairie,
Stoppin' now and then to tarry.

Stirrup clinkin', spurs a-ringin',
Saddle leather sort a' singin',
And at night by stream and willow
You would always be my pillow.

Out on round-up, you was willin',
Even when I took a spillin',
For the cowboy ain't a livin'
Who didn't sometimes wind up givin'.

And when e'er took a fall,
He got up still a-walkin' tall,
And he'd be back there in the saddle,
Roundin' up those Hereford cattle.

So, hang my saddle on the wall,
Hang it gently by the stall.
For come lightnin', rain or thunder,
We will ride the range up yonder.

Wake Services

Lower Brule Community Center, Lower Brule, SD
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2026
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Funeral Service

Lower Brule Community Center, Lower Brule, SD
2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2026

Officiating

Nathan Herman

Casketbearers

Myron Walters
Bill Ziegler Sr.
Tommy Ziegler

Bryan Ziegler
Ira Ziegler
Daniel Ziegler

Honorary Bearers

Tina Winkler
Jackie Collier
Tom Wabnum
Stephanie Boleman
Shirley Bernice
Clyde Estes
Davis Grooms
Doris Cochran
Eugene St Cloud
Virgil Randall

Amelia Felicia
Kristine, Jet and family
Emma Trucco
Kelly Daniels and family
Rulan Tangen
Sonny Ziegler
Terri Lynn Johnson
Troy Fairbanks
Ben Estes
Amy Escom

Interment

Messiah Episcopal Cemetery, Iron Nation, SD
Arrangements By: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD

Martin Thomas “Tom” Ziegler, Waṅblí Lúza (Swift Eagle), of Lower Brule, South Dakota, born April 17, 1964, to William “Bill” Ziegler Sr. and Roberta “Birdie” Thomas in Chamberlain, South Dakota. He passed away peacefully on the morning of May 21, 2026, in Topeka, Kansas.

Tom grew up in Lower Brule, South Dakota, with his father, Bill Ziegler, his grandmother Geraldine Ziegler and his brothers and sisters: Myron Walter, Elmer Ziegler, Lenny Ziegler, Michael “Mike” Ziegler, Pam Ziegler, Lynnell Ziegler, Lorie Ann Seeking Land, Bryan Ziegler, Bill Ziegler Jr., and Hollie Ziegler.

In Lower Brule, Tom and Amelia Felicia raised five children together: Ira Ziegler and Mandi Ziegler of Lower Brule, Tynielle Ziegler and Tommy Ziegler Jr. of Minneapolis, and Tia Ziegler of Mitchell. Tom also had two daughters, Rondell Busack and Shaina Yellowback of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Tom did a lot of traveling on the powwow circuit with his family, Amelia and the kids, his brother Mike, and Rulan Tangen as part of the dance group Čhaṅté Makhá, “Heart of the Earth,” traveling the East Coast. Tom and Amelia’s family also performed with the dance group Brulé. Culture and dancing were a huge part of Tom’s life, along with his love for horses. He held a variety of camps, teaching and sharing his culture and connection with his horses.

Tom was a proud Sičháŋu Wičháša who deeply loved his culture, traditions, and way of life. He dedicated himself to sharing Lakota ways through dancing, singing, healing and prayer songs, and preserving heritage for future generations. His passion for his culture was evident in everything he did.

A true jack of all trades, Tom was a hardworking and resourceful man. He earned a Horse-Shoeing Blacksmith Certificate in Ardmore, Oklahoma, reflecting the skill, dedication, and knowledge he carried in his work with horses. He was a very supportive father and was always quick to lend a helping hand to family, friends, and anyone in need, with a generous and caring spirit. His unwavering support left a lasting impact on those around him.

Tom’s love for horses was a central part of his life. He spent countless hours training, riding, shoeing, and caring for his horses, finding joy and peace in their companionship.

His deep connection with his horses reflected his respect for nature and his cultural roots, and he often shared his knowledge and love of horsemanship with others.

In Topeka, Kansas, Tom met Tina Winkler, his significant other and loving companion for the remaining years of his life. He had a huge support system in Kansas, family away from family. Tom was well-loved among his friends, including Jackie, Joy, Emma, Thomas “Hoppy” Wabnum, and many others. He was known for his vibrant spirit, dancing to his country music, embracing his western cowboy style, and continuing to carry his culture and traditions in all that he did.

Tom is reunited with his beloved wife, Dorothy Kiyukan-Ziegler; his grandmother, Geraldine Ziegler; his grandpa, Sonny Ziegler; his father, Bill Ziegler; his brothers, Mike and Elmer Ziegler; his uncle, Francis; grandparents Vincent Thomas and Carrie World Turner and many other loved ones.

His life was a testament to love, dedication, and cultural pride. Though he has left this earthly realm, his spirit and teachings will continue to inspire all who knew him.

He is survived by his family and loved ones, who will forever cherish his memory.

Rest in peace, Tom. Your legacy endures in the hearts of all you touched.



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