

William W. (Bill) Madole, 76, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, December 8, 2023. Bill was born on January 10, 1947 in Reno, Nevada, to Ennis (Buck) Madole and Eloise Madole. The family returned to Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1951, where Bill lived the rest of his life. Bill graduated from Shawnee High School in 1965 and went on to receive his Bachelor of Science Degree from Panhandle College in Guymon, Oklahoma. Bill married his late wife, Sally French, on May 28, 1997, in La Veta, Colorado.

Bill worked for Farmers Insurance for ten years, owned and operated Clearpond Sand and Trucking Company, eventually becoming a fireman for Shawnee Fire Department. During this time, Bill enjoyed working in many art mediums as a hobby. His focus shifted one day in 1987 when a friend asked him to repair a pair of spurs. The friend was so pleased with the results he asked Bill to design a new pair which began his spur-making career. When Bill married Sally in 1997 the two quickly became a team that worked full-time in their shop making Texas-style spurs and other western gear. Madole Spurs was nationally renowned and over the years, Bill was fortunate enough to make spurs for several well-known celebrities as well as the hard-working cowboy. In 2018 Bill was named Spurmaker of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists. Bill eventually stopped taking custom orders but enjoyed passing on his trade. In recent years he has shared his knowledge with his good friend John Jennings who has also made a name for himself in the western art world.

Bill had many talents and interests. He enjoyed the outdoors and was at times a professional fisherman, a rodeo competitor, cattle rancher, and an outstanding skeet shooter. He appreciated western heritage and the "Cowboy Way". He was a proud member of the Tejas Vaqueros since 2005. Many of his fondest memories were thanks to the Vaqueros he would spend time with each year in "the canyon". Although he was unable to attend their annual gathering in recent years, trail riding with his "friends for life" was a true passion.

Bill's pride and joy was his daughter Shannon, who he had with his first wife Vicki Grider. Bill is survived by daughter Shannon Madole and husband Rick Harper of Edmond, Oklahoma, daughter, Kam Belton of Stuart, Florida, grandchildren, Katelyn and Bradbury Belton of Fort Worth, Texas, son, Kourtney Lewis of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and sister, Penny James and husband Ralph of Plano, Texas; as well as many life-long friends and Vaquero brothers.



In Loving Memory of
**William "Bill" Wayne
Madole**

January 10, 1947 - December 8, 2023

I Know You'll Miss This Man

By: Baxter Black

*The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand,
"Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you'll miss this man.
But, it's true what you've been hearing, Heaven is a real place.
That's no small consolation, You should use that fact to face.*

*The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones and draw
on it to ease your pain, for he is not alone. You see, all his friends
are up here and all his loved ones, too, 'Cause it wouldn't be a
heaven without each one of you.*

*And heaven for a Cowboy is just what you might expect, it's horses
that need tunin' up and heifers that need checked. It's long rides
with a purpose and a code that lights the way and a satisfying
reason to get up every day.*

*It's the ranch he's always dreamed of and never knew he'd find.
And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind. Him, leanin'
in the saddle with his ol' hat on his head, contentment set upon his
face like blankets on a bed.*

*The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat. The bit
chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet. And you somehow
get the feelin' that he's sittin' on a throne a'gazin out on paradise
just like it was his own.*

*I can promise you he's happy, though I know you can't pretend
you're glad he made the journey, it's too hard to comprehend. The
earthly way you look at things can never satisfy your lack of
understanding for the answer to the, "Why?"*

*So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest, I only take
the top hands 'cause my crew's the very best. And I know it might
seem selfish to friends and next of kin but I needed one more
Cowboy and Buster fit right in."*

Funeral Ceremony

*Thursday, December 14, 2023
Two O'clock in the Afternoon
Walker Funeral Chapel
Shawnee, Oklahoma*

Officiant

Bob Devine

Prayer

Dan McGhee

Final Resting Place

*Tecumseh Cemetery
Shawnee, Oklahoma*

Casketbearers

*John Jennings
Bradbury Belton
John Roy
Richie Grinnell
Ronnie Ruffeno
Pat Pennington*

Honorary

Casketbearers

*Phil Wilson
Randy Parsons
Bob Devine
Ken McGuyer
Dan McGhee
Jeff James*

