I HOPE THE ANGELS CARRIED YOU HOME

I hope the angels carried you home gently. I hope there was no fear, no moment where you wondered where you were. I hope they told you how deeply you were loved. And when they carried you through that doorway between this life and whatever comes next, I hope you looked back just once. Not because I wanted you to stay, but because I needed to believe you knew how much you meant to me. I wonder what home looked like to you. I wonder if there was light. If there were familiar faces waiting, if somehow, somewhere, you finally understood that leaving this world did not mean leaving the hearts of those who loved you. Because you are still here. In the stories I tell. In the places I still look for you. In the quiet moments when something reminds me of you and, for one beautiful second, I forgot that you're gone. So wherever you are…I hope you're safe. I hope you're peaceful. And most of all, I hope the angels carried you home.

Sharyn Marsh
Leave Her Wild

In Loving Memory of

Stephanie J. Grassrope

May 16, 1989 ~ August 22, 2026

Wake Services

Lower Brule Community Center, Lower Brule, SD
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Funeral Service

Lower Brule Community Center, Lower Brule, SD
1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 3, 2026

Officiating

Father Kim Fonder
Christian Herman
Shirley Crane
Terry Quilt

Casketbearers

William White Light
Christopher Johnson, Jr
Mason Brushbreaker
Matthew Nietzky
Blake Grassrope
Kenneth Goodlow
Wankiyan Brushbreaker
Danny Grassrope
Rex Jandreau
Alvin Grassrope
Marcus Brushbreaker
Miles Yellow Earrings

Honorary Bearers

Tahnee Turning Heart
Ronette Estes
Bryce Johnson
Austin Goodface
Malissa Walters
Tiara Grassrope
Mr. Brad Bacon
Gene Sazue
Kayla Otter Robe
Jason Goodface
Iren Grassrope
Caleb Black Bear
Adele Tahsequah
Shaun Allen Blacksmith
Donna White Light
Daniel Berry
Sissilee Estes
Elmer Laroche
Steve Heath II
Tim Hardy
Sean Johnson
Sam Charger, Jr
Melvin Tahsequah
Aldean Black Bear
Markisha Makes Room for Them
The Golden Buffalo Casino
Trevor Fire Cloud
Wind Goodface
Jericho Middletent
Dan Hawk
Fran Heminger
Katrina Grassrope
Melissa Laroche
Annie Flute
Lucas Grassrope
Tonya Derdall
Cory Allen
Torey Yellow Cloud
F.I.S. Class of 2007

Interment

Holy Comforter Episcopal Cemetery, Lower Brule, SD

***Arrangements By**: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD*

Stephanie Jennifer Grassrope was born on May 16, 1989, to Antoinette Goodlow and Alvin Grassrope. Although she was born to them, Stephanie was lovingly raised by her "Papa" Herb Goodlow.

Stephanie began her educational journey at Lower Brule Head Start and Lower Brule Elementary School. She graduated from 8th grade at Lower Brule Middle School before beginning her high school years at Lower Brule. During her high school years, she competed in cross country, and track and earned her letterman's jacket. She later finished her high school education at Flandreau Indian School, where she continued to achieve many milestones. She earned letters in cross country and track, took the golf team to state, competed at Nationals in JROTC and drill team, and made it to state with the dance team.

Stephanie was also blessed with the opportunity to travel to Riverside, California, for a basketball tournament featuring native schools. She was also apart of a hip-hop dance group called "Era".

While attending Flandreau Indian School, Stephanie met the love of her life, Marcus Brushbreaker. The two were married in 2013. Together, they were blessed with three handsome sons: Mason, Wankiyan, and Deandre Brushbreaker.

In 2008, Stephanie began attending South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, south Dakota. Because of the busy life of being a mother and loving wife, she was unable to complete her college education. Stephanie later began working at the Lower Brule Boys & Girls Club, where she formed lifelong connections with the children who crossed her path. When she wasn't working there, she worked as a waitress and/or housekeeper at the Golden Buffalo Casino and Hotel as well as a blackjack dealer at the Lode Star Casino & Flandreau Casino.

In 2016, Stephanie was blessed with two more beautiful children, Lavaura & Louis Payer III. In 2023, she welcomed her last son, Miracel Peterson.

Stephanie had an amazing gift for beading. She enjoyed listening to music and dancing. Above all, she loved being surrounded by her family and friends.

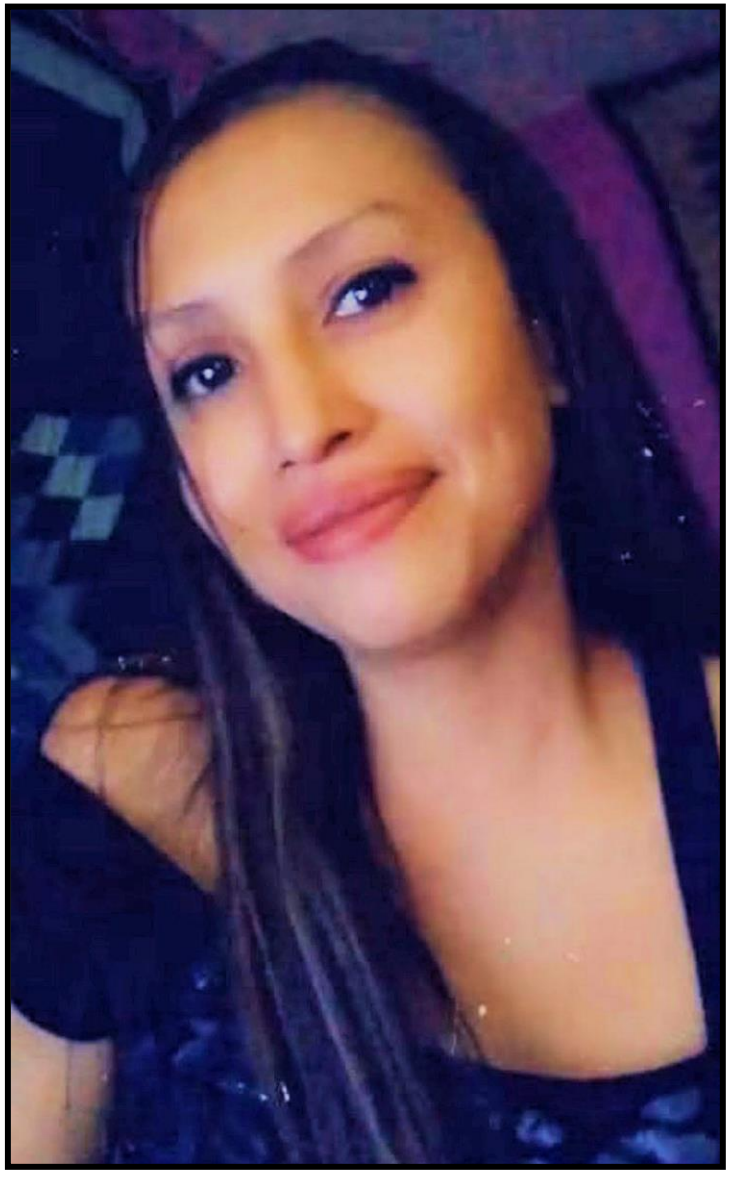
Stephanie is survived by her parents, Antoinette, Herb Goodlow, Lower Brule, South Dakota and Alvin Grassrope of Rapid City, South Dakota; her beloved children, Mason, Wankiyan, Deandre Brushbreaker, Lavaura, Louise Payer Jr., all of Flandreau, South Dakota, and Miracel Peterson of Lower Brule, South Dakota.

She is also survived by her siblings: Matthew Yellow Earrings, Weston (Mary Lou) Harmon, Marcus Yellow Earrings, Melissa Johnson, Miles Yellow Earrings, Alvin Grassrope Jr, Anita Grassrope, Daniel Grassrope, Heather (Kyran Medicine Eagle) Goodlow, Kenneth "Biggie" (Shanna) Goodlow, Aaron Flute, all of Lower Brule, South Dakota, Herbert Goodlow, Jr of Ft. Thompson, South Dakota, Kelly (Danny) Masher, Chris Grassrope, of Mitchell, South Dakota, and Marilyn (Waylon) Roubideaux of Rapid City, South Dakota. She was also survived by Auntie Lou White Light, Diane Grassrope, and Uncle Darren Grassrope of Lower Brule. Aunties Johnelle Archambault, Wilma Tiger Mobridge, SD, Kathy (Gene) Morrison, Zetah Red Bear and Uncle Ted Iron Thunder all of Bullhead SD.

Stephanie was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Germain Archambault and Theodore Iron Thunder; her paternal grandparents Maxine and Noah Grassrope, two sisters, Maria Yellow Earrings and Louise Ta Sunka Witko, four aunties, Auntie Linda Iron Thunder, Betty Harris Lorraine Iron Thunder, and Aggie Hawk and seven uncles, Myron Iron Thunder, Timothy Archambault, Ron Yellow, Tote Carpenter, LindiGuy, Eltwin, and Elvis Grassrope.

Her cousins include Tawnee Jo Sitting Dog, Germaine Kaseman, Dominique Archambault, Baby Paul Archambault, Althea Sitting Dog, Tyson Grassrope, Kimberly Flute, Maza Grassrope, Kelsy Grassrope, and Tamara Grassrope.

Stephanie will forever be remembered for her loving heart, her love for her children and family, her joy in music and dancing, her gift of beading, and the many lives she touched throughout her journey. Her memory will live on through her children, family, friends, and all those blessed to have known and loved her.



In Loving Memory Of

Stephanie J. Grassrope

May 16, 1989 ~ August 22, 2026