

Delano Eugene (Del Gene) Claymore was born on December 19, 1944 to Sidney Charles and Doris D. (LeCompte) Claymore in Fort Yates, ND. He received his education in Fort Yates graduating in 1962. He graduated valedictorian of his class. He continued his education at Bottineau School of Forestry in Bottineau, ND for two years and then transferred to Utah State University, Logan, Utah, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Range Management in 1966. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Washington, DC. He was proud of his military service and was honorably discharged from the Army in June of 1968. He was a proud member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

He returned to Fort Yates, after the service, and worked for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe for a short time. Thereafter, he was offered and accepted a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Aberdeen, SD. From Aberdeen, he transferred to Albuquerque, NM continuing his employment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After a few years, he transferred to Denver, CO working for the Bureau of Reclamation as the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. When Reclamation closed its office in Denver, he transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Aberdeen, SD accepting the position of Human Resource Officer. He retired from federal service in September of 1995, after 28 years of federal service.

It was while he was in Aberdeen, that he met his significant other (fiancé), Bille Black. They just celebrated their 33rd anniversary on December 31, 2020. Bille was Del's primary caregiver after his cancer diagnosis in the fall of 2019. Del Gene developed a very close relationship with Bille's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They referred to Del Gene as grandpa. Over the years, Bille and Del Gene traveled extensively. They visited Europe twice and visited many places in the continental U.S. and Alaska.

He looked forward to the spring and summer months when he could go home (Fort Yates) to spend a few days to control the prairie dog population on the reservation. He became an active member in the "Cowboy Fast Draw Association". He placed third in the "Fast Draw" association's world competition held in Deadwood, SD. His Fast Draw moniker was "Wild Horse Del".

Recently, he was elated when he was advised that the cancer spread was under control. He was walking, driving, and looking forward to his next trip to Montana. Then, he was diagnosed with the damn COVID. He was immediately hospitalized and was in the hospital for exactly one week when he succumbed to the virus on Monday, February 8, 2021.

Del Gene is survived by his mother and step-father, Doris and Charles Soiseth; brother, Scott Jacobson; fiancé, Bille Black and family; maternal aunt, Victoria Putnam and family; paternal uncle, Delano LeCompte and family; Gwen (Gordon) Valandra's surviving children; brother-in law, Leroy Dubray; sister-in law, Charlene Claymore; daughter, Lori Martin; nieces: Margaret Ann (Charles) Krebs, Deeann (Warren) DuBray, Anya (Randy) Bearghost, and nephews: Richie Claymore, Justin Yellowfat, Kansas (Deeann) Dubray, Jamus Meade, Brady and Brett Claymore. His first cousin, Alsace LaFramboise, who he referred to as his other little sister. He is also survived by many other first cousins: Faye Brooks' family, Don Claymore's children, Myrna Watters' children and Rita Luepke's family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Sidney Charles Claymore; paternal grandparents, Peter S. and Mary B. (Bear King) Claymore; maternal grandparents, Obede and Cecilia (Skinner) LeCompte, niece and nephew, Lisa Marie Claymore and Carl Claymore; siblings: sister Linda Lou DuBray, brothers, Richard Lee Claymore, Sidney Carl Claymore, Kenneth Charles Claymore and Brent James Claymore; maternal, Aunt and Uncle, Gwen (Gordon)

In Loving Memory of:



Delano Eugene Claymore

December 19, 1944

February 8, 2021



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Delano Eugene Claymore
“Del Gene”

Indian Prayer

*When I am dead
Cry for me a little
Think of me sometimes
But not too much.
Think of me now and again
As I was in life
At some moments
It's pleasant to recall
But not for long.
Leave me in peace
And I shall leave you in peace
And while you live
Let your thoughts be with the living.*



BORN:
*December 19, 1944
Fort Yates, North Dakota*

PASSED AWAY:
*February 8, 2021
Aberdeen, South Dakota*

FUNERAL SERVICES:

*Friday, April 9, 2021, St. Peter's Catholic Church
Fort Yates, North Dakota*

Greeters: *Justin Yellowfat & Richie Claymore*

9:45 am Video: *“Remembering Del Gene”*

Presented by: Stephanie Waller

10:00 am Mass: *Celebrant Monsignor Chad Gion*

Altar Servers: *Charles & Margaret Krebs' Sons*

Music: *Whitney Somsen*

Readers: *Les Putnam & Kansas DuBray*

Obituary: *Mike Black*

URN BEARERS:

Anne Valandra ~ Renee Vermillion ~ Patti Valandra

Roger Valandra ~ Obede Valandra

HONORARY BEARERS:

Adrian Crowfeather ~ Carl Ducheneaux ~ Sandy Luger

Red Gates ~ Bob Molash ~ Wendell Soiseth

Terry Hausken ~ Del Brewer ~ Bob Mentzer

Rev. Dave Janes ~ Leroy DuBray ~ Keith Engel

HONOR GUARD:

Growler Looking Back Jamerson Post #239

Matthew American Horse American Legion Post #259

Rock Creek American Legion Post #324

11:30 am Funeral Reception:

Prairie Knights Casino, Fort Yates, Banquet Room #803