

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond. Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew when this happened; their friend was dead, gone forever. Then, one day, one little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up that stem. However, he was determined that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top. When he reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap. As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. So, fly he did! And, as he soared he saw the beauty of a whole new world and a far superior way of life to what he had never known existed. Then he remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them, and explain to them that he was now more alive than he had ever been before.

His life had been fulfilled rather than ended. But, his new body would not go down into the water. He could not get back to tell his friends the good news. Then he understood that their time would come, when they, too, would know what he now knew. So, he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life.

Please use this QR code to view Mike's  
online obituary and guestbook.



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# Michael Allen Mitzel

### WHO WAS BORN

May 29, 1961  
Milbank, South Dakota

### AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

April 4, 2026  
Milbank, South Dakota

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.  
St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
Milbank, South Dakota

### OFFICIANT

Father Tom Hartman

### MUSICIANS

Daryl Halvorson, Accompanist  
St. Lawrence Funeral Choir

### LECTOR

Mary Munson

### INURNMENT

St. Lawrence Cemetery  
Milbank, South Dakota

### APPRECIATION

Mike's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the graveside service, please join the family for a time of fellowship and luncheon in the church dining room.

*Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota*

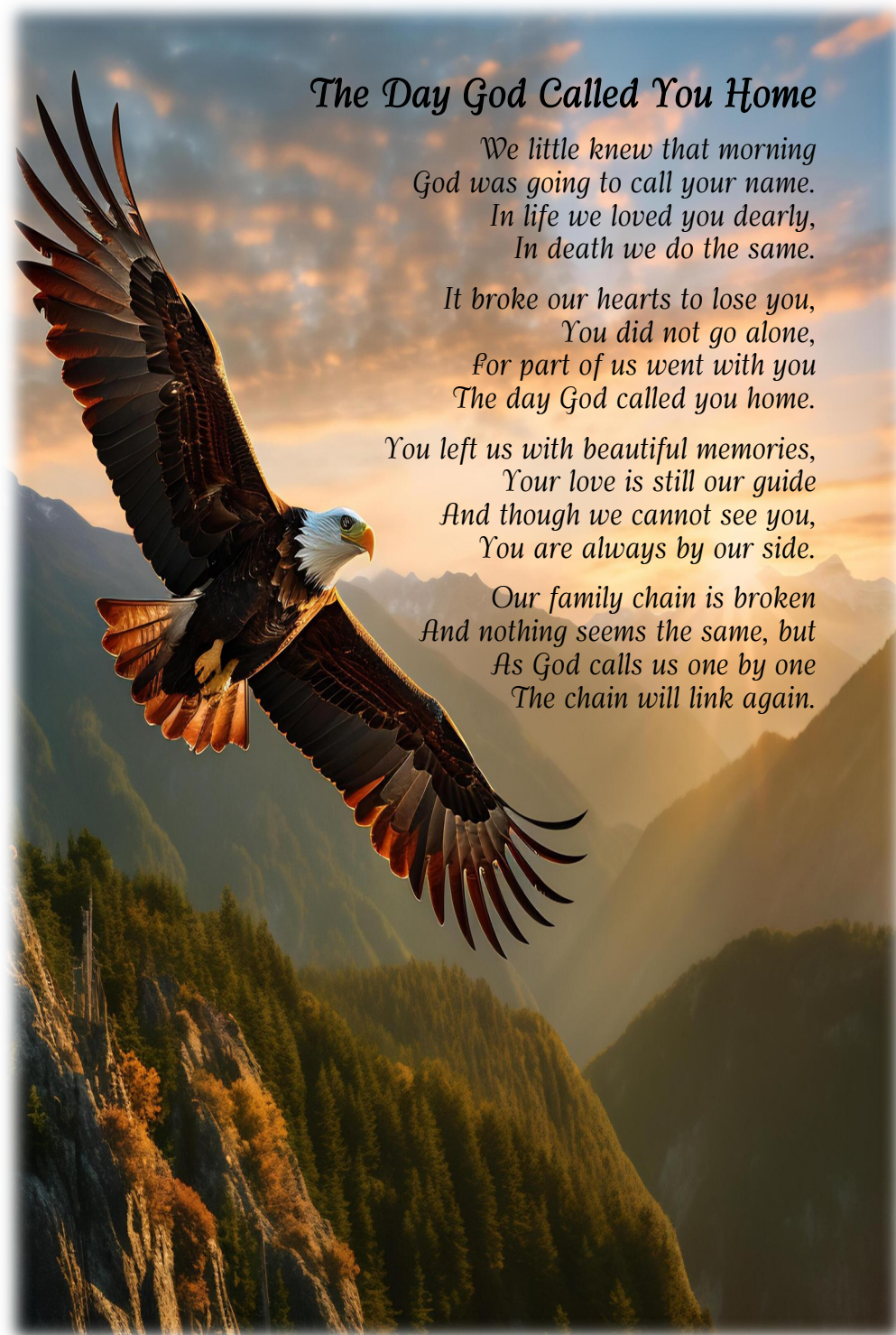


Michael A. "Mikey" Mitzel was born on May 29, 1961, in Milbank, SD. He was the son of James and Vivian (Jacobson) Mitzel. Mike was a life-long resident of Milbank. While in high school, Mike began working at Trevett's Café. He completed his education at Milbank High School and continued to work at the café for many years. He later worked for a few years at Saputo Cheese in Big Stone City, SD.

Mike was welcomed into the Thyne family in 2001, along with his dog, Freddy, and cat, Chipper. Mike was a faithful fan of the Green Bay Packers and enjoyed watching NASCAR. When he wasn't working, he could be found drinking a Mountain Dew and watching old westerns or game shows on METV.

Mike loved visiting with family and friends and occasionally gambling at the casino. He lived a simple life and found happiness in simple ways.

Left to cherish his memory are his siblings: Cheryl (Gary) Cannedy, James Mitzel Jr., Mary (Arlin) Munson, David Mitzel, all of Milbank, SD; and Teresa Folk (Pat Byle) of Milwaukee, WI; nieces and nephews: Tyler Munson (fiancé, Ellie Beckman), Sarah (Matt) Fremstad, Katie (Isaiah) Thyne, Austin Smith, McKenna Mitzel, Ana (Albert) Pavlinac, Jordan Lindberg, Matthew Lindberg, Logan Robinson, and Alex Robinson; great-niece, Georgia Fremstad; former mother-in-law, Diana Thyne of Milbank, SD; and former sister-in-law, Magen Thyne of Revillo, SD. Mike was preceded in death by his parents: James and Vivian; nephew, Connor Munson; his grandparents; and several other relatives.



## *The Day God Called You Home*

*We little knew that morning  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,  
You did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.*

*You left us with beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side.*

*Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same, but  
As God calls us one by one  
The chain will link again.*