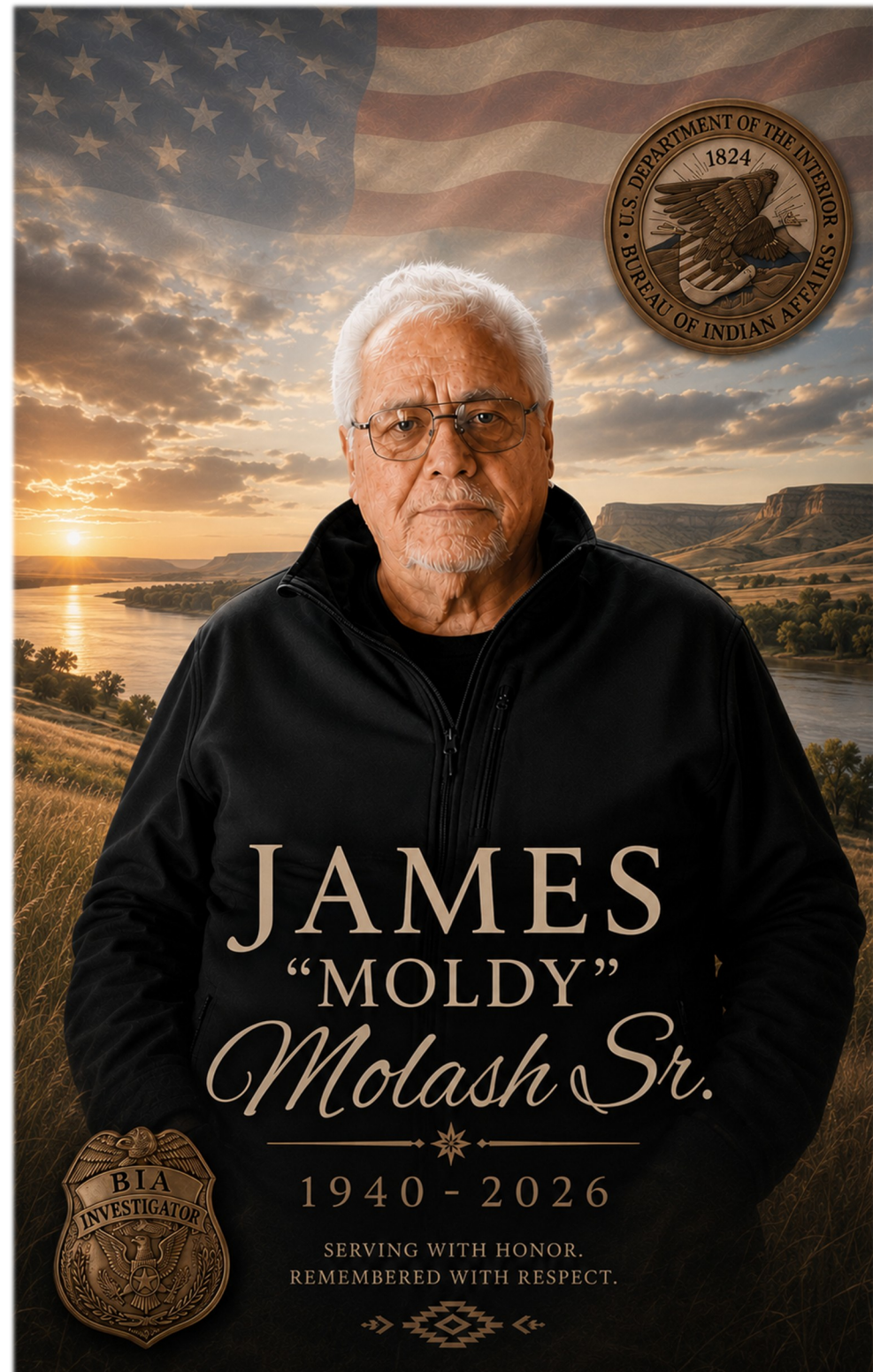


Going to Heaven

When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourselves to me with tears,
Just be happy that we had some years.
I have you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.
Do grieve a while for me if you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part,
So keep our memories within your hearts.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart you will hear,
All of my love around so soft and dear.
And then when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say ...

Welcome Home.



James Richard “Moldy” Molash Sr. was born on December 17, 1940, in Fort Yates, ND, to James H. and Sarah I. (White Eagle) Molash. James passed away peacefully at home on July 15, 2026, while sitting in his favorite chair watching the news. He was 85 years old.

He married our mother, Barbara Grey Bear on July 16, 1965, and together they welcomed four children, Harold, Michelle, James Jr., and William. They later assumed guardianship of their niece, Trish Grey Bear, and she became Dad’s right-hand helper.

Dad lived a life full of adventure from his early years until final days. One of his favorite stories was skipping down the road singing “Zippity-Doo-Dah” on his way to his grandmother’s house whenever he was escaping the consequences from his mother for his naughty behavior. He liked staying with his grandmother until he realized she went to bed at 7:30 each evening while his siblings were still outside playing. He spoke often about his grandmother, Johanna, and fondly remembered carrying water to her house and caring for his horse “Goldie.” He attended Marty Mission School, where he received the nickname “Moldy,” which remained with him throughout his life. He also learned to speak Latin while serving as an altar boy there. He returned to Fort Yates where he completed his education at Fort Yates High School, graduating in 1956. His sister, Janice, told us about him dancing the jitterbug with their sister, Becky, and secretly teaching Janice how to drive on the back roads late at night so his friends wouldn’t see him. His lifelong friend, Jerry Gipp, shared that they graduated together, laughed and teased, enjoyed the ladies of their time, and swam the Big Muddy when it was still a swift and challenging river. They were good friends and he knew Moldy was a good man. After high school Dad went to California on the Relocation Program to be a diesel mechanic. Upon completing this program, he moved to Aberdeen, SD to work with a heavy equipment company. He then returned to Fort Yates to work alongside our Grandpa Jim at the BIA roads department. Dad changed careers and entered law enforcement. He received police officer training in Georgia before returning to Fort Yates to work for law enforcement. Our aunt said, “He would be a good cop because he ‘rode the fence’, but he wasn’t an innocent teenager and he knew all the places young kids would hang out”.

He began his career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a police officer, eventually serving as Chief of Police before becoming Lead Criminal Investigator. Along the way, he earned numerous service awards recognizing his dedication and leadership. He retired in 1995. During his career, he also served as Acting Superintendent for several agencies throughout the Great Plains Region. Although offered opportunities to become a permanent superintendent, retirement was calling, and in 1995 he chose to begin that next chapter instead.

During his life he had many hobbies including hunting, fishing, bowling, golfing, fastpitch, softball, participating in walking events where he earned awards, and let’s not forget his weekly “prayer meetings” which we later found out were card games.

He traveled annually to visit his aunt Margie and Shag in California until they moved back to Standing Rock. He also traveled every year to Artesia, New Mexico to participate in the Indian Country Law Enforcement Memorial. He enjoyed visiting with the “coffee crew” daily and sharing the current events around town. He attended many sporting events to cheer on all the Standing Rock players. He will be greatly missed at these sporting events and with the “coffee crew”. Dad made friends wherever he went. It would be impossible to name them all, and we ask forgiveness if anyone has been unintentionally left out.

~ Harold, Michelle, James Jr., William, and Trish

Dad is survived by his children, Harold, Michelle, James Jr., William, and Trish; grandchildren, Kris (Emily), Alyson (Misun), Samantha, Taylor, Joshua (Rande), Mitchell, Ryan, Megan, Morgan, and James III; great-grandchildren, Kristopher, Jacob, Jonah, Zy’erria, and Zaeir; sister, Janice; brother, Raymond; sister-in-law, Janet; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and Godchildren too numerous to list.

Our dad was preceded in death by his parents, James & Sarah; wife of 55 years, Barbara, who passed away in 2020; siblings, Rebecca, Joseph, Robert, and Kenneth; and his grandparents, Johanna & James Molash and Margaret & Richard White Eagle.

*JAMES &
HIS SISTERS, BECKY & JANICE*



PALLBEARERS:

Kristopher Thomas
Taylor Molash
Joshua Molash
Mitchell Molash
Ryan Netterville
James Dunn
James Molash III
David Molash

HONORARY PALLBEARERS:

The coffee crew: Clayton, Roger, George, Charlie, Bruz, and Mike,
Jerry Gipp, Roger Condon, George Becker, Charlie Soiseth,
Clayton & Maria Hagel, Mike Whitesell, Brother George Maufort,
Reva Gates & family, Dr. John Erickstad,
Dave & Betty Archambault, Sidney & Verna Bailey,
Loretta & Tom Bad Heart Bull, Duane Chase,
Debra Eagle & girls, Thomas Fischer, Robert & Roxy Gayton, David Gayton,
Paul Thomas, Ronald Silk & sisters, Lonna Gipp, William Kuntz,
James McMaughlin, Sharon Two Bears & girls, Teresian Carmelite Sisters,
Kathy & Joseph Smith, Roman & Donna Weiler, Charles Archambault,
Robert & Raymond Luger, Kerry & Gerald Fischer, Thomas Woolworth,
Beverly Luger, Susan Kary, Jeanette Cluett,
Charles & Dean Murphy, Margaret Gates & girls,
Emma Jean Blue Earth & family, El Iron Eyes & Family,
Terry Hodgkiss, Genevie Murphy, Cindy & Regan Dunn,
Geraldine Dunn & Earnest Thunder Hawk, Standing Bear Family,
George & Marilyn Keepseagle, Jeff Kelly,
Frank Martin, Leonard Village Center,
all of the staff that he worked with at
Prairie Knights Casino and the Standing Rock Gaming Commission,
as well as his family relatives

*Our dad had so many friends across the United States
if we forgot anyone it was not our intention.*

Rosary & Parish Vigil
Presider

Funeral Liturgy

Celebrant

Musician

Lectors

Wednesday, July 22, 2026; 7:00 PM
Brother George Maufort

Thursday, July 23, 2026; 11:00 AM
St. Peter Catholic Church
Fort Yates, North Dakota

Msgr. Chad Gion

Denise Subart

Megan Molash & Kristopher Thomas

Scripture Readings

Wisdom 4:7-15

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

Matthew 11:25-30

Special Music

How Great Thou Art

Here I am, Lord

God Be in My Head

Looking Out My Back Door

Committal Service

St. Peter Cemetery

Fort Yates, North Dakota

Graveside Special Music

Earnest Thunder Hawk & Drum Group

“Farewell Lakota Song”

*The family invites you for food & fellowship at the
AJ Agard Multi Cultural Center, 1354 Buffalo Avenue, Fort Yates,
immediately following the burial service.*
