

**D**evoted Christian, beloved husband, dedicated father, cherished son, and dear friend, David Leheska, passed away on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the age of 47 after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor his legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

David John Leheska was born June 19, 1976, in Mitchell, SD to Steve and Gail (Schmitt) Leheska. David attended the America School through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and went on to graduate from Chamberlain High School in 1994 after many years of accomplishments in 4-H and FFA. He went on to serve as a State FFA officer and earned his BS from South Dakota State University in 1997. Following his graduation from SDSU he returned to the Leheska farm where he was a fifth generation farmer and rancher.

David married the love of his life, Laura (Kittelsohn) Leheska on September 11, 1999, and they have four children Tyler, Luke, Sienna and Grant. He cherished spending time with his family, and they made many great memories on their camping and fishing trips, skiing and through 4-H and FFA and showing cattle. He enjoyed checking his cattle and being creative in the shop. David was extremely innovative and mechanical and he found a way to fix and build anything that aided in the success of the family farm. Every winter David and his sons would build something together in the shop and their last project was a gooseneck water trailer and bottomless feed bunks.



He was always having fun and picked up his Grandpa Johnny's tradition of playing pranks on his favorite people. David showed love to everyone he met as he was always genuinely interested in learning about and from others. He will be greatly missed.

David is survived by his wife Laura; children Tyler Leheska, Luke Leheska, Sienna Leheska and Grant Leheska; parents Steve and Gail Leheska of Chamberlain, SD; brother Michael Leheska and wife Jennifer and children Kilian and Bridget of Canyon, TX; mother-in-law Glenda Kittelson of Henry, SD; brothers-in-law Heath Kittelson and friend Jami, Travis Kittelson and wife Leah and children Wyatt and Maddy, Matt Kittelson and wife Brandi and children Colton, Cooper, and Clayton all of Henry, SD; and all of his aunts, uncles and cousins. Preceding him in death were his Grandparents; John and Loraine Leheska and Delbert and Dorothy Schmitt and father-in-law Ken Kittelson, cousins Brian Hanson, and Anthony Mueller.



In Loving Memory of

*David John Leheska*

1976 - 2023



***I'm Free***

*Don't grieve for me, for now, I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
I've found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

*In Loving Memory of*

**David John Leheska**

*June 19, 1976 ~ July 8, 2023*

**Rosary/Scripture Service**

*St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Kimball, SD*

*7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2023*

**Funeral Service**

*St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Kimball, SD*

*10:00 a.m., Friday, July 14, 2023*

**Officiating**

*Father Richard Fox*

*Deacon Jim Bregel*

**Lector**

*Steve Carlson*

**Altar Servers**

*Nathan Rybak*

*Nicholas Rybak*

**Music**

*Rebecca Rasmussen ~ Soloist*

*Brenda Smith ~ Pianist*

**Casketbearers**

*Shawn Reis*

*Jeff Urban*

*Chisum Peterson*

*Brad Olson*

*Eric Mueller*

*Matt Mueller*

**Honorary Bearers**

*All His Family & Friends*

**Interment**

*St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery*

*Pukwana, SD*

Everyone is invited for lunch & fellowship back at the church following the committal services.