

Robert “Bobby” Lee Red Ears was born on June 4, 1953, to Irene Red Ears in Fort Yates, North Dakota. At an early age, Bobby was placed with Edward and Caroline Loon and was raised as their own. Bobby was very adventurous as a young child. He was educated in Fort Yates, where he graduated from Fort Yates High School in 1972 and entered the Army in January of 1973. He was awarded a metal for expert .45 caliber pistol and Sharpshooter M16. After his discharge, he moved to New Orleans, LA, where he worked on off shore oil rigs until his retirement.

While there he met the love of his life, Vanessa Camadelle Ronquille. They married in New Orleans and lived there until her death in 2007. Bobby left Louisiana and moved to Rapid City, SD, to be close to his brother and sister-in-law, John and Sue Pretends Eagle. Bobby enjoyed his time there until he returned to Fort Yates to be close to his Gates family. Diane and her children, who looked out for him until his passing.



Bobby was preceded in death by his wife, Vanessa Red Ears, mother Irene Red Ears, parents Edward and Caroline Loon, grandparents Phillip and Sadie Red Ears, brother Richard White Shield, sisters Barbara White, Diane Gates, Kathy Loon, Tammy Yates.

He is survived by his sisters Rita Loon and Debbie Red Ears-Hempler, his brothers John (Sue) Pretends Eagle and Bradley (Bobbi) Aune and Frank Yates, Cheryl Yates, and Francine Yates.

In Loving Memory Of



Robert Red Ears

SUNRISE
1953

SUNSET
2026

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Robert Lee Red Ears

72 years ~ 10 months ~ 29 days

SUNRISE

*June 4, 1953
Fort Yates, ND*

SUNSET

*May 3, 2026
Bismarck, ND*

PRAYER SERVICE & ALL-NIGHT WAKE

*6:00 pm, Wednesday, May 14, 2026
Green District Building
Fort Yates, North Dakota*

FUNERAL SERVICE

*10:00 am, Thursday, May 14, 2026
Green District Building
Fort Yates, North Dakota*

CLERGY

Father John Floberg

CASKETBEARERS

*Jeri Azure ~ Dace Gates ~ Eddy Gates ~ Frank Mooney
Tyson Red Stone ~ Mervin Little Dog ~ Francis Belgarde*

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

*All of Bobby's nieces and nephews ~ Class of 72'
Tyrin Gates ~ Shavon Gates*

*A special thank you to the staff at Sanford and Ava and
Martha, nurses that took such special care of him during his
time there.*

MILITARY HONORS

*North Dakota National Guard
American Legion Mandan Post #707 Quartermaster*

INTERMENT

*North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery
Mandan, North Dakota*

Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home, Mobridge, South Dakota.

Miss Me - But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free!
Miss me a little - but not for long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me, but let me go.
For this journey that we all must take
And each must go alone;
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me, but let me go.*

