

Inyan (Rocky) Eagle Elk, 45 years old, after making his peace with Tunkasila Wakan Tanka/Jesus Lord passed into eternity at Sioux Falls, SD Ava's House on December 28th, 2019, after a long illness. The family is very grateful to all those who prayed for Inyan, during his struggles, and by your answered prayers, he was carried through his last days.

Rocky was born on February 20, 1974, to a proud mom and dad, Wilfred and Patricia Eagle Elk, as their second child. He spent his early years growing up in Yankton, Brookings, Wagner, and on the Rosebud Reservation, all in South Dakota and attending those respective schools. He attended Sinte Gles'ka University and Killian College with an avid interest in learning. He was born with artistic abilities resulting in beautiful art works we treasure today. He worked at PBM Graphics, Howard, SD for a number of years enjoying his work family.

Rocky married Bennie Rae Kitteaux and though they divorced, remained supportive friends through his lifetime.

Inyan seemed most content when he was creating some beautiful calligraphic artwork and often put forth the sentiment of "Family First Over Everything" in his art pieces. Rocky held a deep love for his family and enjoyed close friends and expressed this in various ways. He always made one feel good about themselves and brought humor into the daily lives of those he cherished. Often going for long walks with canine companions and picking sage was routine. He loved N.A.C. songs, attending Church, and Lowanpi ceremonies.

At the last family gathering, when most of his family was able to attend, he did all the grilling and so enjoyed it. Rocky was always concerned for the basic needs of those surrounding him, shelter, food, clothing and provided for many especially children. He didn't have children but raised many. Being raised to treasure human life, he lived the teaching: If you feed someone, this shows that you want them to live, and that you love them. Rocky was a servant of those around him and will be greatly missed by many friends and relatives. He always wanted to help people feel comfortable in his presence, and would do whatever it took to help them feel that way. He was "selfless".

Survivors include his mother, Patricia Iron Shell-Hill; sisters, Luta Durgam, Sylvia Lasley, Stephanie Thomas; and brother, Zack Hill; and many well loved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and all relatives and friends. Special Aunt Barb & the late Amy Peterson. Rocky was welcomed into eternity by those who preceded him: his father, Wilfred Eagle Elk; sister, Teresa Eagle Elk; Grandmother, Mercy IronShell; Great Grandfather and Grandmother, Isaac and Susan Iron Shell, Sr., Grandmother Angeline Holy Eagle; Grandfather Seth Noisey; Grandparents: Ernest & Bessie (Running Horse) Eagle Elk; Grandpa Silas; the Hehaka Wanbli Tiospaye; As'ke/Iron Shell Tiospaye families and friends.



*In Loving Memory Of*

**Rocky**

Inyan Hehaka Wanbli

February 20, 1974 ~ December 28, 2019

## Footprints In The Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During the times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Arrangements by:  
**Holmes Funeral Home**  
**Valentine, Nebraska**



In Celebration of the Life of

# Inyan R. Eagle Elk

## Services

Veteran's Building in Rosebud, SD

Wakes: Thur & Fri - January 9-10, 2020 @ 7pm

Funeral : Saturday - January 11, 2020 @ 10am

*Traditional Prayers by: Pat Bad Hand*

Burial: St. Mary's/Hollow Horn Bear Cemetery

Iron Shell Flats, South Dakota

## Pallbearers

Roger Brushbreaker

Zack Hill

Dave Durgam

Gary Sokolow

Felix Eagleman

Sonny Thomas

## Honorary Pallbearers

Wakinyan Martinez

Andrew Roubideaux

Dustin Sharp Butte

Joey Durgam

JoAnn Rencounter

Alex Martinez

Aaron & Alijah McBride

Ramon Martinez

Nick Peterson

Aunt Barb Sokolow

Roy Stone Sundance Circle

All Sioux Falls Friends and Relatives