

Tom Arnold Wetzel, age 73, of Sheyenne, ND, lost his battle with COPD on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at CHI St. Alexius Health Medical Center in Carrington, ND.

Tom was born on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1947, in Devils Lake, ND. He was the fourth child born to Albert and Arlene Wetzel. Tom attended Oberon School (1965 graduate), where he was a natural athlete and excelled in both basketball and track. Starting during his high school years, Tom became an accomplished saddle bronc rider and an excellent horseman. Following high school, Tom was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served from 1967 – 1969 under the 1<sup>st</sup> Calvary Division as a dog handler and walked point for many divisions. Tom received a purple heart for being wounded in battle.

In 1976, Tom relocated to Zap, ND where he worked as a welder at the coal mine for 18 years. After being injured on the job, Tom went back to school and received a degree in orthotics and prosthetics. He enjoyed putting smiles on the faces of those he helped. His career took him to Wyoming, Oklahoma and New Mexico before he retired in 2011 and moved back to Sheyenne, ND.

Throughout his life, Tom continued to work with horses and participate at rodeos in the Team Roping event. Tom was a no-nonsense type of person and spoke his mind freely, you always knew where Tom stood on any matter. However, he was also kind, compassionate and caring. He possessed a strong work ethic and an innate devotion to his lifelong friends.

Tom married his “beautiful bride”, Deb Holter, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012. During retirement he continued work with horses and mules. When time permitted, he restored old horse drawn wagons, sleighs and buggies. He also did many chainsaw wood carvings based on his wild imagination which are on display throughout his yard. He will be sorely missed as he was always the soul of any gathering.

Tom is survived by his brothers Roger (Cindy), Tim (Donna) and “Fritz” (Sharon) Wetzel; his wife Deb Wetzel; two sons Shane (Angela) and Cole (Kari) Wetzel; grandsons Sage and Chance Wetzel; stepson Darren Holter and a step-granddaughter Crystal Holter.

He is preceded in death by Albert and Arlene Wetzel (parents), “Pete” (brother), Anita (sister), Patricia Walser (mother of his children), Venoie Bergrud (mother-in-law) and Christal Holter (stepdaughter).



## *Celebrating the Life of*



## *Thomas “Tom” Wetzel*

*July 22, 1947 – May 28, 2021*



### ***To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me***

When I am gone, release me, let me go -  
You have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears  
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love. You can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you all have shown,  
but now it's time I traveled alone.

So grieve awhile for me if grieve you must,  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part  
So bless the memories within your heart.

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'll hear  
All of my love around you, soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile, and say  
"Welcome Home."

-Author unknown

## In Loving Memory Of *Thomas Arnold Wetzel*

July 22, 1947 – Devils Lake, ND  
May 28, 2021 – Carrington, ND

### **VISITATION**

Friday, June 4, 2021  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Evans Funeral Home, New Rockford, ND

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

Friday, June 4, 2021 ~ 2:00 PM  
Evans Funeral Home, New Rockford, ND

### **OFFICIATING**

Rev. Amy Kippen

### **MUSIC**

*Old Rugged Cross & Amazing Grace* by Alan Jackson  
*Storms Never Last* by Jessi Colter & Waylon Jennings

### **HONORARY BEARERS**

All of Tom's Family and Friends

### **MILITARY HONORS**

VFW Post #6547, Fort Totten, ND  
North Dakota National Guard Funeral Honors Team

### **BURIAL**

Hillside Cemetery, Oberon, ND

Arrangements By  
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND  
[www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com](http://www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com)