



The Broken Chain
We didn't know that morning,
God was going to call your name...
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same...
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.



Honoured to serve the family of Denise Eagle Speaker
To send a condolence, please visit our website or scan the QR Code
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Forever in Our Hearts

Denise Eagle Speaker
Sootaamstakii - Rain Woman

September 17, 1972 — July 22, 2023

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Denise (Steele) Standing Alone. Our beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt & Niece passed away suddenly in Lethbridge AB. Denise was born in Cardston AB and raised on the Blood Reserve. In her early teens, our parents relocated to Calgary, AB, and she made her home there. This is where she met the love of her life, Mike Steele. After years of living in Calgary together, they both decided to move back home to the Blood Reserve, so that they could both be near their parents as they were all getting in on age.

Denise spent her time perfecting her culinary skills and perfecting her skills at sewing and beading, and making regalia for her children. She travelled the local pow-wow trails so that her son Brendan could participate in an activity that he loved.

As an adolescent, Denise was a cowgirl at heart. There was nothing Denise couldn't do. She was one of the first female steer riders with the Blood Reserve Rodeo Club in the early 80's and earned her first membership in this rodeo club.

Denise attended the Standoff Elementary School and then spent her early teens in at the Fairview Junior High School and then her High School years at St John XXIII.

She later began her education at Mount Royal College, then decided to get her HCA diploma at Training Inc. in Lethbridge, AB, which was the job she enjoyed with a passion. This is where she put her credentials to work, when her mother was gravely ill, and she depended on Denise and Lurlene to take care of her, as they were called upon often. Denise worked at the BTDH and BTAP in the years after she relocated from Calgary. Denise had an old soul mentality and put her heart into anything that was thrown at her, but after our mother's passing, a part of her spirit died and that was when her addictions took over.

When Denise became a mother for the first time, she doted on Brendan and made sure he was well taken care of. Then, along came the twins, Lyndon and Lyndsey, and she started working to provide for her children. She loved her grandchildren immensely, as Heaven was her baby. She fought tooth and nail to keep her in her care. No matter the situation, Heaven stayed by her through thick and thin. She made sure Heaven was well taken care of, and Heaven did that in return. She loved all her grandchildren equally and tried to be there for all of them.

Mike was her soul mate. When one was near, the other was in tow, as it was very rare to see them apart. When they were apart, it was for good reasons, as she made sure Mike was well taken care of, and even in severe cold weather, she would be out there providing for Mike and Heaven.

The family would like to thank Uncle Roy and Christine Bare Shin Bone for taking Denise in, as she took them as her second parents, right up until her passing.

Denise was a proud granddaughter of the late John & Annie Bare Shin Bone (Anoota & Ilimiitsiimaakii). She loved to sit with our grandmother and learn everything that she had to offer. It was with her knowledge from our grandmother she had the opportunity to help repair the Lethbridge City Police Tipi on July 18, 2023.

Denise is survived by her husband Mike Steele, her children: Brendan (Linda) Bear, Lyndon (Raven) Bear and Lyndsey Bear; her stepchildren: Lori Eagle Plume, Cheyenne Rae and Jessie; her pride and joys, her grandchildren: Heaven, Tyrelle, Evelina, Miiklo, Zaiden, Xavier, Duran and Azailiah; her father Jim Shot Both Sides Jr.; siblings: Maria Eagle Speaker, Malcolm Eagle Speaker, Beulah (Colin) Mountain Horse, Lurlene Bare Shin Bone, and Malina (Dwayne) Across the Mountain; nieces and nephews too numerous to mention as she loved each one of them; mother-in-law Mary Steele; sisters-in-law Lillian, Shirley, Mary Ann and Trish Steele; uncles: Roy (Christine) Bare Shin Bone, Jordan (Susan) Bare Shin Bone, Johnny Bare Shin Bone, Randall Bare Shin Bone, Ike (Geri) Eagle Speaker, Wilton Good Striker, Allen (Edna) Standing Alone, Baron (Glenda) Standing Alone and Dale Low Horn; aunts: Gail (Randy) Many Bears, Byrde (Del) Healy and Wanda (Peter) Weasel Head; and her godchildren: Leslie and Dustin Eagle Speaker. She took many of her cousins as brothers and sisters.

Denise had a very close relationship with her Eagle Bear family: Marsha Provost, Audrey Eagle Bear, Anita Singer, and Veronica Eagle Bear.

Survived by families: Bare Shin Bones, Low Horns, Many Bears, Big Heads, Eagle Plumes, Eagle Speakers, Eagle Bears, Standing Alone, Wadsworth, Weasel Fats, Plaited Hairs, Bloods, and Crop Eared Wolves.

Denise is predeceased by her loving parents: Tyrone Eagle Speaker and Linda Shot Both Sides; her grandparents John and Annie Bare Shin Bone; Mike and Kathleen Eagle Speaker and Allen and Beulah Standing Alone; uncles: Vernon Bare Shin Bone, Peter Big Head and Francis Bare Shin Bone; aunts Sylvia Low Horn, Lucielle Bare Shin Bone, Ruby Eagle Plume, Byrde Eagle Speaker, Evelyn Locker, Shirley Merrick, and Gail Right Hand; her beloved grandchildren: Tyrone and Breanna Bear; niece Lynda Simone Eagle Speaker and many cousins too numerous to mention.

The family apologizes for any names not mentioned.

Wake Service

Senator Gladstone Hall
Blood Reserve, AB

Monday, July 31, 2023 from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

MC: Jordan Bare Shin Bone

Denise will then be taken to Jim Shot Both Sides residence for the night

Funeral Mass

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Blood Reserve, Alberta

Tuesday August 1, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

Celebrant: Father Benedicto Tugano IV

Musician: Craig Day Chief

Hymns

Ave Maria

Hail Mary Gentle Woman

First Reading: Leslie Eagle Speaker

Second Reading: Teslynn Mountain Horse

Prayer of the Faithful:

Gospel Reading: Fr. Benedicto Tugano IV

Pallbearers - Church

Jett Black Water
Jude Black Water
Jacob Black Water
Al Many Fingers
Jonathon Bare Shin Bone

Clinton Many Bears
Ovide Merrick
Terry Eagle Speaker
Nikolai Bare Shin Bone
Chad Bare Shin Bone

Pallbearers - Graveside

Brendan Bear
Dustin Eagle Speaker
Dennis Mountain Horse
Cobe Blood
Brody Day Chief

Lyndon Bear
Trez Mountain Horse
Dale Low Horn Jr.
Hunter Eagle Speaker
Ethan Day Chief

Honorary Pallbearers

Denise had so many friends and family, everyone in attendance is an Honorary Pallbearer

Interment

Following the Funeral Mass, Denise will be laid to rest in the Steele Family Plot

Feast

Following the Interment, family and friends are invited to further share this day at the St. Mary's Dam