

## Thomas Dean "Tom" Wilts



Tom was born April 24, 1961, at Princeton, MN, to Harlan and Muriel (Walters) Wilts. He attended Big Lake, MN, schools and graduated from high school in 1979.

Tom worked a few odd jobs out of high school before earning his EMT Certificate. He started his law enforcement career at Sherburne County as a Jail dispatcher. Tom then went to Moody County and earned his LE License. Tom also worked for the Moody County Sheriff's office and the Brookings County Sheriff's office in South Dakota as well as the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

He graduated from many law enforcement specialty schools through his lengthy career. Tom started working for the Meade County Sheriff's office in 1990 and retired as Chief Deputy in 2015.

Tom loved the outdoors. He was a hunter and enjoyed guiding with his partners in the world famous Turkey Track Club. He also guided elk hunters in the mountains of New Mexico and the Black Hills. He enjoyed hunting coyotes on the plains and fishing in the lakes. Tom especially loved his family, friends, and his grandkids.

Thomas Dean "Tom" Wilts, 55, Sturgis, died Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at his home in Sturgis following a long fight with cancer. Tom won!

Survivors include his partner, Sue King; brothers, Robert (Judy) Wilts and William Wilts; grandchildren, Mary, Rex and Griffin, Kreedon, Skylee, Kyan, Ashlyn, Kinley, and Kantler; niece and nephew, Jamie Wilts and Michael Wilts; four aunts; two uncles; step children, Jamison (Mark) Bahle, Blake Rave, Kory (Kim) Longley, Kelly (Amos) Blomquist, and Katie Jo (John) Ott.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Meade County Graduating Senior to fund a Law Enforcement Scholarship.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the Loud American Roadhouse Bar & Grille following the service.  
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

## *In Loving Memory Of*



***Thomas Dean "Tom" Wilts***

***1961 ~ 2017***

## *End of Watch*

*When a cop lies down for the final time,  
When his tour of duty comes to the end of the line.  
“End of Watch” is the term that’s said,  
To simply say the Officer’s dead.*

*As for me, I’d like to say,  
I wish I’d live for one more day.  
But if this is the day I’m laid to rest,  
I hope I’m remembered for doing my best.*

*I hope I did my job well,  
I pray I was fighting when I fell.  
I want to be known for doing it right,  
Even if the job takes me into the night.*

*I hope I was a model to all,  
To wear this badge while standing tall.  
To be known as having served with my Heart,  
To be remembered for doing my part.*

*Now lay me down and let me rest,  
And go out there and do your best.  
Wear your uniform and badge well,  
Let’s go out there and give’em hell.*

*For you’re on watch at the end of mine,  
And I hope you don’t have to lay it on the line.  
But walk with pride, and little fear,  
I’ve got your back because I’m still here.*

*This was more than a job; it was my life you see,  
And I know you will mourn, but remember me.  
Live your lives in an effort to preserve,  
My life, my motto, “To Protect and Serve.”*

**By, Barry Hillestad**

## *In Loving Memory Of*

### *Thomas Dean “Tom” Wilts*

#### *Born*

April 24, 1961  
Princeton, Minnesota

#### *Died*

April 19, 2017  
Sturgis, South Dakota

#### *Memorial Service*

Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
Sturgis Brown High School West Gymnasium  
Sturgis, South Dakota

#### *Officiant*

Chaplain Randy Bradley

#### *Musical Selections*

“How Great Thou Art”    “Never Let Go”



*God saw he was getting tired  
and a cure was not to be  
So He put His arms around him  
And whispered “come to Me.”  
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer  
And saw him fade away  
Although we loved him dearly  
We could not make him stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating  
Hardworking hands to rest  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He takes the very best.*