

## The Dash

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.  
He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth  
and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.  
So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more  
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...  
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.  
So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash,  
would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

# Celebrating the Life of



# Jeffery Van Winkle

September 5, 1970 ~ August 10, 2024

**Welter**  
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Cherishing Memories, Celebrating Life

267 THIRD STREET SE  
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA 57350  
[www.welterfuneralhome.com](http://www.welterfuneralhome.com)

Jeffery James Van Winkle was born on September 5, 1970 in Yankton, South Dakota to parents Richard "Rick" and Sheryl (Dvoracek) Van Winkle. Jeffery and his family lived in Tyndall where he attended school. After high school, Jeffery attended floral school at Southeast Technical Institute.

Jeffery had many hobbies and interests. He loved Dolly Parton, Dr. Pepper, antiques, pottery, plants, flowers, and being with his cats. He also loved people and entertaining. He was the owner of Under the Rainbow Greenhouse and Humphrey's THC. He loved the State Fair and working at the burger shack for many summers. He was a proud supporter of the Huron MS Society, Huron Regional Medical Center Foundation, Jan Manolis Family Safe Center, SD BBQ Championships, Alley Cats, and Beadle County Humane Society. He was a board member of the Huron Historic Preservation Board.

He is survived by many friends and family including the Wayne and Jeannie Hofer Family. He is also survived by his cats, "T", November, Mocha, Riffia, and Patches.

He was preceded in death by his spouse, Dr. Karl Blessinger; his parents; and his brother Scott Van Winkle.

*In Loving Memory*

*Jeffery  
Van Winkle*

*September 5, 1970 ~ August 10, 2024*

**MEMORIAL VISITATION**  
5-7 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
Welter Funeral Home  
Huron, South Dakota