

James Robert “Bob” Hanson



Today January 24, 2017, James Robert “Bob” Hanson, a true American hero rode off into his last sunset. His story began on the plains of South Dakota, born on the family farm in Bison to James Henry and Elsie Bertina (Knutson) on October 3, 1918. His mother taught him and his siblings in grade school. He went on to attend high school in Bison and ag school in Brookings.

He was drafted in the first round, but elected to enlist so he could pick his branch of service. Being a horseman, he chose the cavalry. He arrived in France June 9, 1944, three days after D-Day. He was injured and captured on August 4, 1944. He was held captive for 10 months, weighing only 85 pounds when he was liberated on May 8, 1945.

Upon returning to the family farm, he found and courted his leading lady, Donna Wright, a local school teacher who had many admirers. On December 9, 1946, the two snuck off to Broadus, MT, to get married, in a suit he borrowed from his brother, Leland. They completed their posse with 3 boys; Terry, Jim, and Erick (Ricky). This posse roamed all over the west, settling in such places as Broadus, Moorcroft, Recluse, Hullett, and Bison.

After retiring from the Sheriff's office in Bison, he and his leading lady set up camp in Washington State coming to the aid of his kinfolk, Erick and Kathy, as they settled their homestead. As always, Bison called to this cowboy. Upon their return, they settled in the house on Rogers street.

This cowboy never met a stranger, and has touched the lives of many people. He always had a joke or story to bring a smile to your face, and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He broke horses and blacksmithed into his 90's, teaching these trades to anyone willing to learn. This was one of his many legacies that will live on.

His last few years were spent with family in Gillette. It took a village to keep up with him.

Awaiting his arrival on the other side are his leading lady, Donna; posse members, Terry, Jim, and Erick; parents, Jim and Elsie; brothers, Bud, Leland, and Llewellyn; and sisters, Genevieve, Mildred, and Evelyn (Tootsie).

Hands left to tend the camp are daughters-in-law, Kathy and Jo; grandchildren, Sheila (Doug), Tanya (Ray), Josh (Michelle), Adam (Cas), Amber (Tim), Dawn (Brandon), Justin (Christina), Teresa (John), and Shane (Krista); 20 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to your favorite charity in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship after the service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of



James Robert “Bob” Hanson

1918 ~ 2017



Horses

The trouble with horses is there's not enough land.
 You need the whole West. Argentinian savannahs,
 Central Mexico, you need it all, you need months of ground.
 Cover land not in miles but landmarks in a day,
 Horizons repeated, you got to have big chunks of ground.
 If you want a horse.

A horse needs New York to Los Angeles with no one in Kansas
 Patagonian plateaus, countries in weeks, minimum.
 If there were a W-I-D-E strip of ground from Oregon to Japan.
 You want a horse, anything less, you just as well walk.

I want Montana, the whole thing
 With nobody home! I want to ride with Cortez
 Or Jim Bridger or John Smith to a rendezvous in the Tetons.

I want to cover some ground, wend valleys unseen in a day
 Climb mountain ranges in a week, cross deserts untrampled
 Ford streams in a forest, and rivers raging.
 Snow covered passes, and unending grasslands.
 Smell leather soaked in a horse sweat and morning rains
 Feel the saddle horn power of his pull on a mountain grade.

If I ever go to planets unnamed. I'll take genes of
 Eohippus, when I go to find new ground, I want a horse
 A big strong Arabian, when I want to find new land
 I'll take a horse, and my Dad, anyday, Always.

In Loving Memory Of James Robert "Bob" Hanson

Born

October 3, 1918
 Bison, South Dakota

Died

January 24, 2017
 Gillette, Wyoming

Funeral Service

Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
 Bentley Building
 Bison, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Brad Abelseth

Musicians

The Presbyterian Choir

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace" "The Old Rugged Cross"
 "Beautiful Isle Of Somewhere" "In The Sweet Bye And Bye"

Pallbearers

Larry Karns ~ Dusty Jager ~ Dick Woll
 Melvin Woll ~ Bill Kotilla ~ Kevin Willy

Honorary Pallbearers

Sion Hanson ~ John Erickson

Military Honors

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard
 National Guard Honor Guard

Interment

Monday, January 30, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
 Black Hills National Cemetery
 Sturgis, South Dakota