

In Loving Memory of
Michael Charles "Mike" Alberts

Born
July 29, 1946
Deadwood, South Dakota

Died
November 23, 2025
Rapid City, South Dakota

Funeral Service
Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant
Pastor Lora May

Speakers
John May
John "J.P." Hughes

Musical Selections by
Danny Chapman

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and refreshments
at the Sturgis Senior Center following the service.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*

In Loving Memory



Michael Charles "Mike" Alberts

July 29, 1946 ~ November 23, 2025

Michael Charles “Mike” Alberts, age 79, of Sturgis, South Dakota, passed away suddenly on November 23, 2025, at Monument Health Hospital in Rapid City.

Mike was born on July 29, 1946, at St. Joseph Hospital in Deadwood, SD, to Charles and Beverly (Mayer) Alberts. He grew up in Pueblo, CO, and Sturgis, SD. He spent most summers with his grandparents, Dan and Jean (Clark) Mayer, in Lead, SD. After graduating from Sturgis High School in 1964, where he was a champion debater, Mike attended college and later married Bonnie Abel. They were married for over 14 years and had one daughter, Stephanie. Mike met Francie Ruebel, and they were married in July of 1983, sharing their two daughters, Stephanie Alberts and Yvette Ruebel.

When he was young, Mike’s job experience included working at Dick’s Standard full-service gas station on Junction. He was known for enthusiastically pumping gas and checking oil, and washing windows so vigorously that the car shook. Mike also made ambulance runs and worked funerals for the FO Jolley Funeral Home. He also worked in the meat department of Wayne Baker’s Sooper Dooper grocery store. At age 20, while working under Ken Marshall, he began his over 40-year service at the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Sturgis. Through the divestiture, Northwestern Bell became US West, then Qwest, and finally CenturyLink. Mike worked throughout the Black Hills, climbing poles, installing telephones, troubleshooting, and working with the construction crew through all of our South Dakota seasons and temperatures.

He also served as a union steward for Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7505 and was a member of Telephone Pioneers of America. As a “young phone guy,” Mike worked endless hours and days in the aftermath of the devastating 1972 flood in the Black Hills; in 1997, as an “old phone guy,” he worked on an experienced crew in Grand Forks, ND, to help them recover from the Red River flood. In “retirement,” Mike worked at Rockingtree Floral & Garden Center, where he took care of all the trees from spring through fall, and made sure that flower arrangements and wreaths were delivered to the correct recipient in town or the proper grave at the National Cemetery.

From the time he was a child, Mike loved all cars and motorcycles!! He could recognize the year and make of almost any pre-1970 vehicle. But he saw the future of cars shown in his mid-1960s Car & Driver magazines, and after 1970, he was disgusted that the new cars all looked alike! He sustained his love of ‘56 & ‘57 Chevys, tinkered on his vehicles, and rode his motorcycles every month of the year that he could. His favorite rebuilds were “Old Blue,” the 1946 Chevy pickup, and the 1963 Triumph Bonneville motorcycle that won an award at the annual “Counts of the Cobblestone” show at the Civic Center in Rapid City. Mike loved driving anything, and he collected many, many scale models of all his favorite models of cars, trucks, motorcycles, and airplanes.

Mike was a good friend to many, always there when needed, offering advice and support to folks of all ages on a wide variety of topics. Whether it was the guys hanging out at Dave’s Auto Repair, the pit crew for friends’ stock cars at Black Hills Speedway, or the car club he started with friends in Sturgis, he was always

willing to help somebody turn a wrench, scrounge a part, or overhaul something (even if there were a few parts leftover). Mike also loved his cats, and at the time of his death, he had six who were claimed as “family.” This count does not include the many neighborhood kitties that stopped daily for his snacks and to vie for his attention. The deer and the birds will miss his treats, also.

The last six years of his life were plagued by dementia, which took away his quick wit and snappy retorts. That ability was missed by many of us – friends and casual acquaintances. However, we did occasionally still get the twinkle in his eye, the smart-aleck remark, or the quintessential Mike chuckle.

Mike is survived by his wife, Francie, of Sturgis; daughters, Stephanie of Lakewood, CO, and Yvette (Patric) of Windsor, CO; grandsons, Thomas Rikli of Windsor, CO, and Bryton Douglas of Texas; and Bonnie Alberts of Sturgis. Mike’s sisters, Cherie McKee (Bill) and Melissa Two Crow, both of Sturgis, will miss him, as will his nephews and nieces (Jason, Bobby, Mandy, Katy, and Danny), plus three grand-dogs and four grand-cats. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Charles “Chuck” Alberts and Beverly Alberts.

Memorials may be made to the benefit of Sturgis Animal Shelter, EITHER by donating to the Shelter’s veterinary care account at Northern Hills Vet Clinic in Sturgis (Call 605-347-3606, or mail / drop off at 713 Anna St, Sturgis, SD 57785) OR the Shelter is always in need of all kinds of pet food and supplies. You may drop off donations at the shelter, 1140 Otter Rd, Sturgis, SD 57785, or order items from their Amazon Wish List at this link: <http://bit.ly/49A7ZhM>.

Condolences may be sent to the family at PO Box 412, Sturgis, SD 57785 or via www.kinkadefunerals.com

Do Not Ask Me to Remember

By Owen Darnell

Do not ask me to remember,
Don’t try to make me understand,
Let me rest and know you’re with me,
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I’m confused beyond your concept,
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you
To be with me at all cost.

Do not lose your patience with me,
Do not scold or curse or cry,
I can’t help the way I’m acting,
Can’t be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone,
Please don’t fail to stand beside me,
Love me ‘til my life is done.