



In Loving Memory Of

You were her forever, and she loved you till the end. The day before you said I do, God held her precious hand. She walked that final beaming aisle, Our Father by her side; she soared into the altar, her head held up so high. When He asked who gives this girl she looked back down at you. A smile formed upon her face. She knew what she'd have to do. As Jesus asks to bare her soul, she winks and leaves the floor. Our Father gentle in his ways guides her to your shore. She whispered to the ones she loved. "Please help him find his peace." One last stop she had to make, a final thing made clear. She whispered in her lovely voice, "Letting go is not a choice." As your eyes began to blink, you wished it all untrue. She lost her final fight, her spirits now with you. She entered in that golden altar; her soul was His to bear. As her spirit takes its' final trip, she whispers in the air. Forever's what we should have said and forever's what we'll be.

~SMZ~



Leah Hankins Simmons

1984 ~ 2016

Leah Hankins Simmons



Leah Elizabeth "Beth" Hankins, 32, passed away due to a vehicle collision on October 25, 2016, close to the Simmons farm in Butte County on the eve of her wedding.

She was born August 23, 1984, in Chattanooga, TN, to Mildred Elizabeth Lafever (Russel Eugene Maxwell JR) of Lakewood, CO, and James Hankins (Kathy Moore) of Tennessee. She was raised in Hixson and Ooltewah, TN. Leah was a firefighter for the Nisland/Arpan Fire

Department.

She leaves behind her would be husband, Jaymes Simmons of Nisland SD. She also leaves behind 4 wonderful children: a daughter, Onica Aria Maxwell; her sons, Karsten and Caleb "Paul" Hilyard; and stepson, Andrew Simmons; her brother, James Lafever (Sherri Bollard) of Littleton, CO; her sister, Monica Hankins of South Carolina; grandmother, Mary Hankins; and grandparents, James F. and Sue Nichols, all of Tennessee.

At 19, Leah followed in her brother's footsteps and moved to Colorado, knowing something was tugging at her from the north. In 2006, she followed her heart and moved to Wyoming, where she not only was blessed with 2 beautiful sons, but later met the love of her life, Jay. They had a spark that was undeniable and never doubted that they were meant for each other. They later decided to move to South Dakota and start their dream company. Leah's true passion was horses, and owned many different kinds of pets. She would rather drive her pickup, go camping, go riding, and get dirty over shopping any day of the week. If you asked her who "her team" was, she would answer the Cowboys without skipping a beat. Though she loved the outdoors, Leah loved crocheting. She was very passionate about music and had a large playlist full of many different styles but she was the biggest fan of The Backstreet Boys.

Leah was the most sincere, kind, loving friend and lover anyone could ask for. She not only had a smile that would pierce into your soul but she also could find the good in any situation. Her outgoing personality would make even a stranger comfortable in her presence. She will be missed by many who thought of her as a strong, funny, independent and secure woman who knew exactly what she wanted out of life. She would never give up and had a "do whatever it takes" kind of attitude. Most who met her would form a lifelong bond that only grew with time.

Leah was preceded in death by her grandfather, Landel Hankins and another father figure Paul LaFever..

A memorial has been established to the Nisland / Arpan Fire Department.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and pot luck following the service at the VFW hall in Sturgis. We thank you for your presence and condolences.

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Leah Hankins Simmons

Born

August 23, 1984
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Died

October 25, 2016
Vale, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Doug Clark

Musical Selections

"Go Rest High On That Mountain"
"Amazing Grace"

Honorary Pallbearers

The Simmon's Bridal Party

