

Leo Vincent Zwetzig

Beloved father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend, Leo Vincent Zwetzig passed away on December 5, 2021, at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Born in Rapid City, SD, to Alexander and Ellen (Ebel) Zwetzig on March 24, 1941, Leo grew up in Keystone, SD, and graduated from Hill City High School in 1959.

Leo served in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963. An advanced marksmanship instructor, Leo's service included training soldiers at different Army bases and National Guard camps across the United States. Following his service, Leo worked in mining and construction until 1967 when he started his National Park Service career as a fire control aid at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. He received a permanent position as a park ranger in 1970. He obtained his law enforcement certification from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Washington D.C. and was promoted to Chief Park Ranger in charge of law enforcement in 1982. Leo was entrusted with protecting Mount Rushmore, a responsibility he fulfilled with honor. Leo retired from the National Park Service in 1991, after which time he stayed active hunting, fishing, and spending time with family. During his retirement, he also worked with Meals on Wheels and served as the site manager for the Keystone Community Center, coupling his love for his hometown and its people with his love for cooking and serving others.

Leo was a fighter who survived more than one life threatening experience, including his battle with esophageal cancer in 1996. Leo's fighting spirit was balanced by a loving and kind heart that he undoubtedly inherited from the person he considered his angel, his mother Ellen. Leo shared the words, "I love you," genuinely and often, and those who knew and loved him always knew and felt his love.

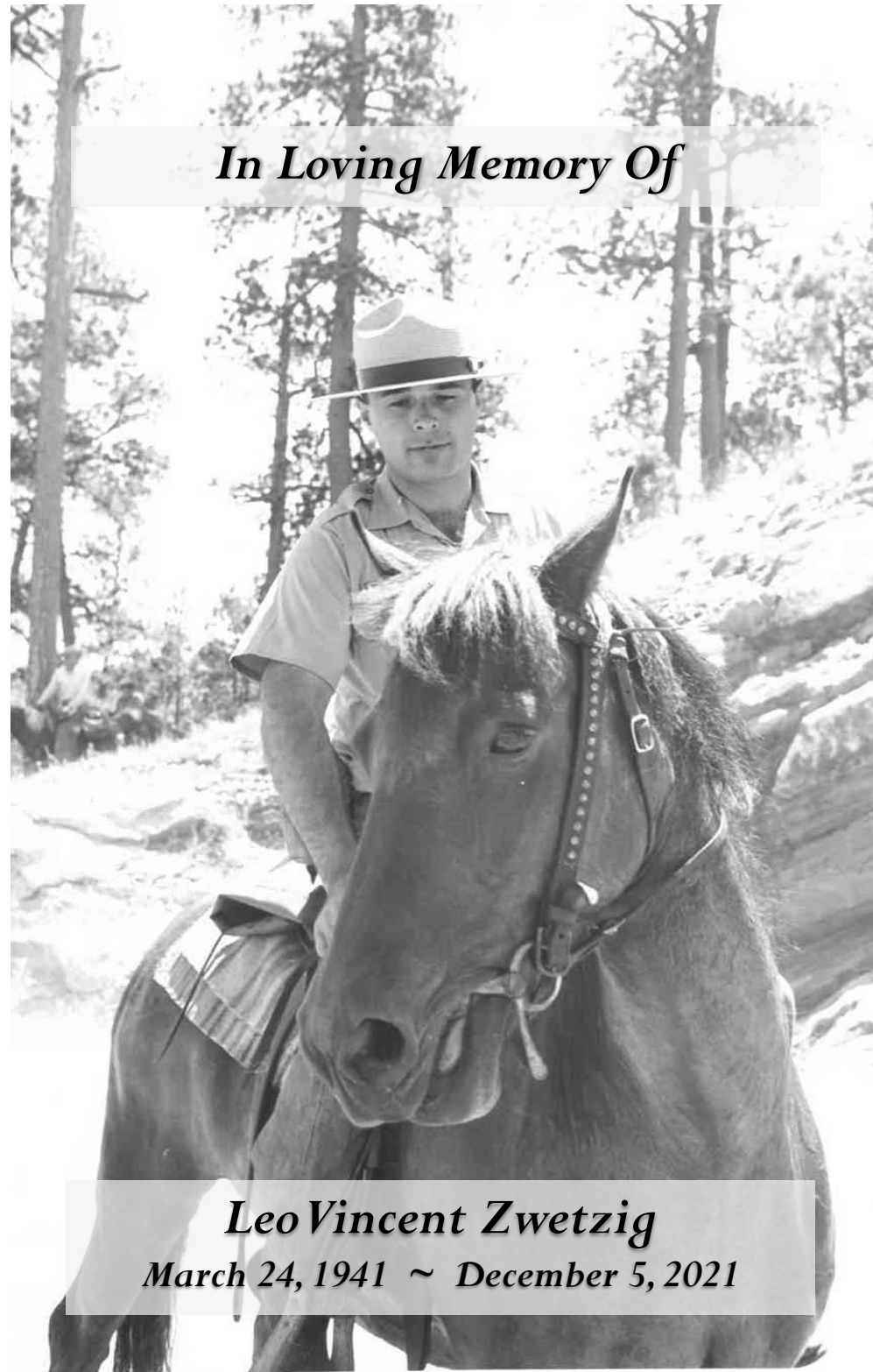
Leo is survived by his daughters, Kimberly (Michael) Carlson and Katrina Rudebusch; his grandchildren, Megan (Jon) Collins, Erika Kling, Christian (Brianna) Rudebusch, and Vincent Rudebusch; his great-grandchildren, Lily, Harper, and Declan Collins and Roman and Kolbe Kling; his brothers, John Zwetzig, Fred Zwetzig, and Jim Zwetzig, along with many other family and friends.

Leo was preceded in death by his father, Alex Zwetzig; mother, Ellen Zwetzig, and brothers, Bill Zwetzig and Frank Zwetzig.

Condolences may be conveyed at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family invites you to a meal and time of fellowship immediately following the service. Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of



Leo Vincent Zwetzig

March 24, 1941 ~ December 5, 2021

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

— *Margaret Fishback Powers*

In Loving Memory Of Leo Vincent Zwetzig

Born

March 24, 1941
South Dakota

Died

December 5, 2021
Hot Springs, South Dakota

Mass of Christian Burial

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Blessed Sacrament Church
Rapid City, South Dakota

Officiating

Father Tim Hoag

Pallbearers

Karl Zwetzig	Travis Zwetzig
Christian Rudebusch	Vincent Rudebusch
Jon Collins	Jay Swaby

Gift Bearers

Lilian Collins	Harper Collins	Declan Collins
Roman Kling	Kolbe Kling	

Final Resting Place

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota