

Robert Gene Burke was born January 31, 1951, and passed away at home on February 1, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Belle Fourche, SD, to William and Harriet (Alexander) Burke, he grew up on the 2U Ranch near Redig, SD, along with his younger sister, Jennifer. He attended grade school at the Dunn School and then went to high school in Spearfish, SD, graduating in 1969.

While in high school, Bob participated in football, basketball, and rodeo. He was instrumental in starting the Lookout Riders rodeo club and competed in calf roping, steer wrestling, and team roping.

Bob continued his education at South Dakota State University on a rodeo scholarship and continued to compete in his three favorite events. It was while attending SDSU that he met his sweetheart Kathy Swan, Newell, SD. They became engaged the summer of 1970 and married in Newell on December 29, 1970.

After college, they returned to the Burke Ranch near Hoover, SD, in 1973. Bob ranched and continued to rodeo in the NRCA and SDRA circuits in all three of his events. His favorite event though was steer wrestling, and he also hazed for many other steer wrestlers. Kathy also ran barrels at this time and they have many happy memories of going to rodeos and being with the friends they made there.

In September of 1973, Bob was drafted and went to basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri for the National Guard. He served with the Guards for six years.

On February 14, 1974, they welcomed their first born, Chad Robert, to the family, then Jason William on November 22, 1976, and Shannon Rae on August 10, 1978. The whole family worked on the ranch and also enjoyed going to the rodeos with Bob, enjoying many summer weekends among great friends.

While on the ranch at Hoover, Bob obtained his pilot's license and enjoyed time flying to check stock and water, hunt coyotes, and occasionally startle a neighbor with a low flyover.

The summer of 1990, Bob, Kathy, and family moved to the ranch south of Sundance, WY, and have ranched there since. Bob worked for Tri-County Electric/Powder River Energy, retiring in February 2017.

Bob continued to rodeo after moving to Sundance, concentrating on the Old Men's Breakaway when he turned 50, winning multiple saddles in NRCA, SDRA, and NDRA circuits.

Bob and Kathy were blessed with eight grandkids and enjoyed watching all of their various activities in and out of school. Bob especially had fun helping his grandkids and other kids with their rodeo events and horses. He was involved in many organizations over the years, including rodeo association leadership and county fair board. When "someone" needed to do something, he was willing to be that someone. His great good humor and capable attitude made him the "go to" guy for anything that came along.

There was never a dull moment when Bob was around and he had fun everywhere he went. He and Kathy enjoyed dancing and could really "cut the rug." He wasn't above playing practical jokes on anyone he knew and made a lot of people laugh over the years. He was also kind and compassionate and would help anyone in need, whether he knew them or not. He was a larger than life personality who will be greatly missed.

He was a beloved son-in-law to Bill and Wilma Swan, and a treasured member of the whole Swan family.

Bob is survived by his sweetheart of 48 years, Kathy; children, Chad and Carrie Burke, Cottonwood, CA, Jason and Deb Burke, Encampment, WY, and Shannon and Tadd Haugen, Sundance, WY; his mother, Harriet Burke, Sturgis, SD; his sister, Jennifer Coles, Yakima, WA; and grandkids, Ethan and Thomas Burke, Carlsbad, CA, Haley and Austin Burke, Cottonwood, CA, and Dillon, Annika, Harris, and Maura Haugen, Sundance, WY. He's also survived by cousins; his brothers and sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

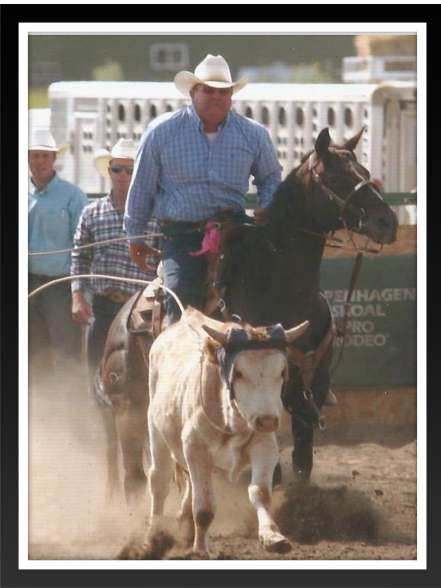
He was preceded in death by his father, William Burke; his grandparents; and his in-laws, Bill and Wilma Swan.

A memorial has been established.



In Loving Memory

Robert Gene Burke



*I thought of you today,
 but that is nothing new.
 I thought about you yesterday
 and days before that too.
 I think of you in silence.
 I often speak your name.
 All I have are memories
 and a picture in a frame.
 Your memory is a keepsake,
 from which I'll never part.
 God had you in his arms,
 I have you in my heart.*

In Memory Of **Robert Gene Burke**

Date of Birth
 January 31, 1951
 Belle Fourche, SD

Date of Death
 February 1, 2019
 Sundance, WY

Service
 Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 11:00am
 Sundance High School
 Sundance, Wyoming

Clergy
 Pastor Shanna Gebhardt

Musicians
 Danny Chapman ~ Terry Kissack

Songs
 "You're My Best Friend"
 "The Old Rugged Cross"
 "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys"

Pallbearers
 Gary Simon ~ Jerry Golliher ~ John Rogers
 Mark Thiel ~ John Heidler ~ Gerald McInerney
 Tom Costello ~ Lenny Hofer ~ Duffy Buresh ~ Rich Steedley

Honorary Pallbearers
 NRCA, NDRA, and SDRA Senior Men Breakawayers

Place of Interment
 Inyan Kara Cemetery
 Sundance, Wyoming

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the school immediately following the funeral service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.