



Tribute to a Cowboy

*I'm sure God has a ranch in Heaven
A place for cowboys to call home
With dusty trails and deep passes
Where cows and horses freely roam*

*I picture you up on a ledge
Gazing at the draws below
Leaning forward with your Thirty X
Stetson hat pulled way down low*

*I can 'bout hear the leather creaking
When your gelding switches feet
Your spurs softly jingle in the wind
Your rope's tied on and coiled neat*

*There is contentment on your face
You're happy but I can't pretend,
Though I'm glad you've made God's journey,
That I can truly comprehend*

*In my earthly ways I question
The reasons God took you away
I guess the timing was exactly right
To enter Heaven on that day*

*The only comfort I have found
That puts my grief to rest
Is that God only takes the top hands
Because His crew's the very best*

*We still cry and we sure miss you
And all the things that might have been
But God needed one more cowboy
And He felt you'd fit right in*

*So He send down all His ranch hands
And extra horse stood at their side
Then he softly whispered to you
"Saddle up, my friend, let's ride."*

In Loving Memory Of



William Theron Ziegenbein

1933 ~ 2018



William Theron Ziegenbein

William Theron Ziegenbein was born on a homestead in rural Haakon County northeast of Philip, SD, on November 15, 1933, to Theron and Selma Ziegenbein. He went to a country school in rural Philip and the family moved to Sturgis when he was in 6th grade. Bill completed the 8th grade and when given the choice to leave school or to work in 9th grade, he chose to go to work, and never stopped. Bill always displayed an avid thirst for knowledge and was often reading books

and studying maps.

Bill was a hard-working and highly respected businessman. His truck driving days began in 1949 when he drove a meat delivery truck, after which he started working for the sawmill in Whitewood, sawing and hauling logs within the Black Hills area. In the mid 50's, he went to work for Shirley Hussey hauling cattle and rodeo stock and drove for RB Wilson out of Denver, CO, hauling fuel in the late fifties. In 1960, he started driving for Claude Roth Trucking and shortly thereafter established Zieg trucking and also had several other business ventures. In the late 70's, Bill and Darlene purchased a wheat farm on Red Shirt Table near the Badlands.

A true cowboy at heart, Billy loved riding horses and especially enjoyed raising cattle. He fully appreciated the sport of rodeo and all things related to cowboy culture. Always an adventurer, one of Bill's last great excursions was fulfilling his lifelong dream of riding a mule down the Grand Canyon.

Bill began dating the love of his life, Darlene Thomson, in 1954 and they married in 1958. Darlene and Bill made their home and raised their children in the Piedmont area. In 1993, Bill and Darlene partially retired when they sold Zieg Trucking and in 2004, they fully retired after selling their farm on Red Shirt Table.

Bill was a wonderful and beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband, and friend. He and Darlene spent much of their time traveling, visiting their children, and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with



their many cherished friends. His friends at Red Shirt Table Village fondly called him "Billy Big Heart," and there could not be a better way to honor and describe Bill. It is no secret that he was deeply loved and respected by many.

Bill had an amazing gift of being able to make friends. He was never afraid to sit down and have a cup of coffee with a stranger and often walked away with not only a phone number but also more often than not, a new friendship and a great story. Bill's love of life, family, and friends brought many to his side throughout the years where he offered his wisdom, love, and support. When asked how he was doing, Bill would often state, "well, I have never had a bad day in my life," and he meant it. His positivity and kindness was genuine and touched everyone around him.

Bill's memory and inspiration is carried on by his son, Zane Ziegenbein, Sturgis SD; daughter, Kim (Dan) Quenon, Peoria, AZ; son, Shane (Shawna) Ziegenbein, Bend, OR; granddaughters, Kyndal (Chad) Strenge, Colman, SD, and Genevieve Quenon, Peoria, AZ; grandsons, Jake Quenon, Peoria, AZ, and Zachary Ziegenbein, Sturgis, SD; great-grandchildren, Cody, Kaia, Kali, and Cole Strenge, Colman, SD; sister-in-law, Joann Thomson, Rapid City, SD; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many lifelong friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Darlene; his parents, Theron and Selma Ziegenbein; his parents-in-law, James and Leota Thomson; two sisters, Charlotte Bachand and Jeanne (Buzz) Andrews; four brothers-in-law, Irvin (Helen) Thomson, Junior (Marge) Thomson, Paul (Helen) Thomson, and Roger Thomson; and sister-in-law, Louise (Francis) Parsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be donated to the High Plains Western Heritage Center and the Red Shirt Table Elementary School.

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

