

Orlando 'Ole' Thompson Obituary

Orlando G. Thompson, 80, of Hot Springs, South Dakota, passed away on March 3, 2020, at Monument Health Hospital, Rapid City, SD.

Orlando was born on July 9, 1939, to Melvin and Alma Thompson of Henry, SD, outside of Watertown SD. Orlando ("Ole") was raised on the family farm, a cattle and hog operation, and attended school in Wallace, SD. In High School, he was active in basketball and worked on the family farm. He graduated in 1957. Upon graduation he went to work for Watertown Monument Works, creating and delivering memorial stones. It was at this time that he began driving big trucks, which began a career that would span 60 years as an universally respected and sought after big rig operator.

In the spring of 1959, Ole married Marion Jacobson and had their first child, Mike, later that year. A year later, the little family moved to Rapid City SD where he began working as a driver for a freight company, and at times drove livestock rigs. It was there in Rapid City where Ole and Marion had their second child, Brenda. Their time in Rapid City was brief. In 1962, Ole moved his family to Hot Springs SD, where the couple had their last child, Cindy, and where Ole would reside the remainder of his life.

In Hot Springs, Ole went to work as a fuel driver for Hot Springs Refinery. At that time the owner Ted Bonde, had recently purchased a burgeoning truckstop at the intersection of Hwys 385 and 79. Bonde named it Maverick Junction.

Ole and Marion divorced in 1970. Ole went on to become the Manager of Maverick Junction, a position he would hold until 1982.

In 1974, Ole married Pat Simmons. He became the stepfather to Donise, Jeff, and Christy Simmons. Pat and Ole were married for 32 years until her death in July of 2006. In 1982, Ole started his own trucking company, running cattle and hay operations, until eventually evolving into nationwide long haul flatbeds until 2015, when he sold his last semi.

Due to medical issues from a brain injury, we lost Ole on March 3, 2020. He was rejoined with Pat, the love of his life, and will be forever missed. Ole cannot comprehend the friends he is leaving behind.

Ole was a lifelong avid hunter, fisherman, and solid mechanic. Ole loved playing poker, and he was pretty good at it. He was part of a local community of poker players who played regular weekly games in the southern hills area and at the Hot Springs Senior Center.

Ole is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Alma; his sisters, Dorothy and Loraine; and his brother, Gerald. Ole's stepdaughter, Christy, passed in 1983, and infant son, Steven Thompson, passed as an infant.

Orlando Glenn Thompson is survived by his immediate children: Mike Thompson (Mary) of Jerome, ID; Brenda Cruz (Rick) of Fargo ND; Cindy Schoon (Bill) of Whitewood, SD; and step children, Donise Cyre of Coos Bay, OR; Jeff Simmons (Marsha) of Hot Springs, SD. He is also survived by grandchildren, Chris; Jacob; Cody; Darrel; Danyelle; Jesse; Destiny; Ty; Danny; Lisa; Bryce; Sean; Rheanna; Chris; Aaron and Jay. Further surviving him are many great grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. Ole was the quintessential Grandfather and Uncle, and was and will always be cherished and missed by his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



*In Loving Memory
Ole Thompson*

1939-2020



I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took his hand when I heard His call
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joys-
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh, yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine for tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief-
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee-
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

*Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota*

In Loving Memory

Orlando 'Ole' G. Thompson

July 9, 1939
Henry, South Dakota

March 3, 2020
Rapid City, South Dakota

VISITATION

2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 8, 2020
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICES

2:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2020
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Reverend Gary Jacobsen

SPECIAL MUSIC

"If Heaven Was Needing A Hero" by JoDee Messina
"I Can Only Imagine" by Mercy Me
"Jealous Of The Angels" by Donna Taggart
"Go Rest High On That Mountain" by Vince Gill

PALLBEARERS

Ole's Grandchildren

COMMITTAL SERVICES

Evergreen Cemetery
Hot Springs, South Dakota

LUNCHEON

The family would like to thank you and invite you to join them for a time of fellowship at the Masonic Lodge in Hot Springs, SD, immediately following Ole's committal services.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

A memorial has been established in Ole's name.