

## 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.*

## ERIC R. BUTLER

June 9, 1949—November 15, 2024  
Lincoln, Nebraska    Custer, South Dakota

### VISITATION WITH REFRESHMENTS

1:00 p.m., Friday, November 22, 2024  
Living Outreach Church  
Custer, South Dakota

### FUNERAL SERVICES

2:00 p.m., Friday, November 22, 2024  
Living Outreach Church  
Custer, South Dakota

OFFICIANT—Pastor Joel Ziolkowski

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“May I Have This Dance”  
“Amazing Grace”  
“I’ll Fly Away”

SOLOIST—Linda Butler

SOLOIST—Darryl John Northcraft

GUITARIST—Darryl John Northcraft

### PALLBEARERS

Darren Sweeney, Darryl John Northcraft, David Harman  
Ryan Stark, Jimmy Swarthout, Duane Garver  
Dwight Brayton, Brenden Hendrickson, Paul Dutoit

### COMMITTAL SERVICES

Pringle Cemetery, Pringle, South Dakota  
VFW Auxiliary Post #3442

### MEMORIALS

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Custer VFW, Living Outreach Church, Compassion in Jesus' name (Aneudys has been sponsored by Eric and Linda for the last two years), Custer VFW, CMA, or the Custer 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.



Eric Reese Butler, 75, of Custer, SD, passed away November 15th, 2024. Eric was born June 9th, 1949 in Lincoln, Nebraska to parents, Sidney Reed and Ferne Irene (Chapman) Butler. He graduated from Oregon State University with a Degree in Forestry and Engineering.

Eric met Linda in 1998 in Spokane, WA at Kinkos. They were married in 2004 in an outdoor setting at a dear friend's home. Over their twenty years of marriage they lived in Spokane, WA, Williston, ND, and in 2020 they moved to Custer. A lifelong dream was achieved when they built their log cabin which was perfectly set in the Black Hills. Eric designed their home with attention to every detail. Observing nature was a daily joy – deer, turkeys, bunnies and birds; they all visited Eric and Linda.

Eric and Linda loved Jesus. They attended Abundance Life and Living Outreach churches. They were involved with Bible Study. In the Custer community, Eric was involved with Christian motorcycle association (CMA), Custer VFW, Custer Chamber and positions of responsibility within their housing development.

Family was very important to Eric. In addition to morning prayers for family and friends, numerous road trips occurred to visit family in the Pacific NW. Eric was extremely intelligent, kind, friendly to all, a wonderful friend, and the kindest husband Linda could ever hope for. Eric always had a smile on his face, would wave to everyone while driving, and was a great conversationalist.

He is survived by his wife, Linda of Custer; sons, Cameron Brayton of WA, Darryl (Kiersten) Northcraft of MN; Grandchildren, Crystal (Parker) Weber; Melody Brayton; Tyler (Tasia) Brayton, Wilson and Laura Northcraft; great grandchildren Xela, Landon, Liam, Amiyah, KeAndre and Elaina. Brother In Laws, Dwight (Diana) Brayton and Bill (Evelt) Brayton; Sister in Laws, Darice (Paul McShane) Brayton.

Eric and Linda's love for community, friends and family will never cease.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of  
**Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home**  
Custer, South Dakota

## IN DEAREST REMEMBRANCE

