

In Loving Memory

Prayer

By Pastor Craig Dahl

The Lord's Prayer

Recited by all

Committal Prayers for Sara and Jake

By Pastor Craig Dahl

Benediction



Jacob T. Mertes

1978-2021



Jacob Theodore Mertes passed away August 7, 2021, at the age of 42.

Jake, as he was known to family and friends, was born November 2, 1978, at Grand Forks Air Force Base where his parents were stationed. He spent the majority of his life in the Midwest, living in Nebraska, North Dakota and Minnesota.

During his youth, he developed a passion for herpetology, folk music, literature, and poetry. By the age of 13 he could recite Shakespeare and Poe by heart!

Jake attended Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Nebraska. He served two years in the U.S. Navy. In 2008, Jake began studying biology at Valley City State University in North Dakota. He was a leader inside and outside the classroom. He was respected by his professors and was considered a mentor by many classmates. Jake graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in earth and environmental sciences.

In 2013 Jake along with his dog, Major, moved to Libby, Montana. Here he worked as an emergency medical technician for the local volunteer ambulance service; he was a much-loved substitute teacher; and ultimately, he began working for the Lincoln County government as an environmental health and planning specialist, a job he held until his death. The Libby, Montana community benefited from his commitment to service and professionalism.

In 2016 Jake met Dr. Sara Huddleston, a family medicine practitioner in Libby. In 2018 they were married in Ireland. Jake and Sara loved the outdoors and traveling. Almost every weekend, they backpacked, swam, hiked, biked, climbed, snowshoed, or skied and generally explored the world together. Jake and Sara went on more adventures in their short time together than most people do in a lifetime!

The Committal Service

Introductory Words of Comfort and Hope

By Pastor Craig Dahl

Readings

Psalm 61:1-4

Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Read by Devon Mertes

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am in a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle showers of rain,
I am the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the graceful rush
Of beautiful birds in circling flight,
I am the starshine of the night.
I am in the flowers that bloom,
I am in a quiet room.
I am in the birds that sing,
I am in each lovely thing.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there. I do not die.*

By Mary Elizabeth Frye

Prayer

By Pastor Craig Dahl

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Sung by Sara Severson

Remembrances

Dr. Joseph Stickler

Mike Tomlinson

Joy Mertes-Smith

“This Is My Father’s World”

Sung by Sara Severson

Meditation

By Pastor Craig Dahl

“Morning Has Broken”

Sung by Sara Severson

Benediction

By Pastor Craig Dahl



Jake was a connoisseur of laughter, fine cigars, and whiskey. Many would describe him as a grown-up child. He adored kids and taught many children to appreciate the outdoors. He also loved sharing his knowledge and passion for herpetology with those around him, but with no one more than his niece, Lucy, a 9-year-old herpetologist prodigy.

Jake was preceded in death by his father, Roger Joseph Mertes; grandfather, Theodore Mertes; uncle, John Mertes and grandparents, Leo and Joy Bilodeau. Jacob's beloved wife, Sara and his stepfather, Dr. James Edney tragically died in the same plane accident.

Jake is survived by his mother, Deborah L. Bilodeau Edney; sisters, Joy Mertes-Smith (Dan Leland) and Molly; brother, Jordan; stepsiblings, Michael (Andrea) Edney, Christine (Collin) Johnson and Daniel (Tiffany) Edney; grandmother, Esther Mertes and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins in the Mertes, Priebe, Edney and Schweitz families.

Jake will be missed for his wry sense of humor, his endless pranks, his great laugh, his big smile, and his love for friends and family. But he will be missed for his big heart most of all!

In lieu of flowers, memorial donated contributions will be used to aid local Libby, Montana organizations that support the couple's passion for the outdoors and for healthcare.



Celebrating the Life of
Jacob Theodore Mertes

November 2, 1978 ~ August 7, 2021

Memorial Service

Anderson Funeral Home Chapel

Alexandria, Minnesota

Friday, September 17, 2021

11:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Craig Dahl

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Song

"How Great Thou Art"

Sung by Sara Severson

Intro and Invocation

By Pastor Craig Dahl

Readings

Selections from Psalm 139

Romans 8:35, 37-39



The Peace of Wild Things

Read by Christine Johnson

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Written by Wendell Berry