

WITH  
DEEPEST  
SYMPATHY



## JAMES VIG

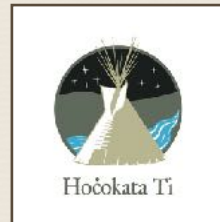
August 30, 2016

Community Member James J. Vig, age 63, journeyed to the Spirit World on Tuesday, August 30. James (Jim) was born on December 22, 1952, the son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Weldon) Vig. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. All services were held at the Tiowakan Spiritual Center. Interment with Military Honors took place at the SMSC Cemetery.

James enjoyed cars and rebuilding older ones, and working with motors. He also liked to hunt, fish, and collect antiques. He enjoyed spending time at his farm with his animals, especially his dogs and cats. He was a practical joker who liked to tease and have fun. He loved to laugh and always had a smile on his face.



For more information about Šakpe I, Tíniŋa Otuŋwe, and the Dakota, Hočokata Ti [ho-cho-kah-tah-tee] the Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) cultural center and gathering space, is worth visiting. The public exhibit, "Mdwakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake," enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Mdwakanton Dakota people and their history. Hočokata Ti is at 2300 Tiwaha Circle, Shakopee, MN 55379. (952) 233-9151.



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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**James Joseph Vig**  
1952-2016



James was born on December 22, 1952, the son of Bernard Howard Big (1915-1971) and Elizabeth Rose Lizzie Weldon Vig (1918-1985.). His grandparents were Ole Ingval Olsen Big (1885-1964) and Anna Christenson Kristiansdatter (1883-1964); and Charles Chuck William Weldon (1874-1936) and Minnie Josephine Hapstijna Otherday (1877-1959.)

Approximately 42,000 American Indians—one of four eligible Native people compared to about one of twelve non-Natives—served in the armed forces during the war in Vietnam (1964–1975). One of them was James Joseph Vig, who served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

The U.S. Navy participated in a wide variety of roles and missions during the Vietnam War. Navy combat artists recorded many of these activities, typically sharing the same dangers as the sailors and Marines they accompanied. At the peak of American involvement in the Vietnam War, in 1968, there were 38,000 Navy personnel in the Naval Forces Vietnam; this decreased to about 17,000 by the end of 1970. By the end of the War, the Navy played a minimal role in near-shore and in-country activities. The Navy utilized both modernized World War II-era carriers and new super carriers during the Vietnam War according to <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/museum/exhibits/takingtheseas/vietnam-war-era.html>.



James Joseph Vig's grandparents were Minnie Josephine Hapstijna Otherday, was born in a tioti on July 24, 1877 on the north side of the Minnesota River in Tínta Oturwe, and Charles Chuck William Weldon. His great grandparents included Oyatekokepa Jacob Otherday, and Hapstijna Makaakanjwanjekewij Black Flute Lucy Otherday.

Twenty-one carriers participated in 86 war cruises. Task forces were deployed to two sectors off the coast of Vietnam - Yankee Station to the north and Dixie Station to the south.

James enjoyed cars and liked rebuilding older ones and working with motors. He also liked to hunt, fish and collect antiques. He enjoyed spending time at his farm with his animals, especially his dogs and cats. He was a practical joker who liked to tease and have fun. He loved to laugh and always had a smile on his face.

James Joseph Vig, age 63, of Shakopee, a member of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, journeyed to the Spirit World on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at his home.

Jim was survived by his children, Joey, Ricky (fiancée, Callie O'Meara), Juley; siblings, Dolly, Doris (Tim) Guion, John (Kathy), Sandy, Charlie (Donna); nephews, Steve (Tammy) Florez, Jimmy (Jill) Bigley, Bobby (Dulcie)



Bigley, Don Matta, David Matta, Ron (Shari) Perrault, Jason (Kevin Head) Vig, John (Tara) Vig, Jr., Scott (Kristin) Vig, Andy (Anna) Vig, Austin Vig, Kevin Vig, Jesse Vig; nieces, Joann (Donnie) Vig-Yahnke, Brooklyn Vig, Jamie (Brad) Vig, Lori Otherday, Candace (Jei) Garlitos, Melissa Vig.

Preceded by his parents, Bernard & Elizabeth; brother, Manuel Florez; sister Darlene Matta.

The funeral happened at the Tiowakan Spiritual Center in Prior Lake. Interment with Military Honors was held at Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Cemetery, according to the McNearney Funeral Home in Shakopee on August 31, 2016.

One friend, Sheree, noted "They say time heals all wounds, I cannot tell. Jim was loved by everyone, not just me. The neatest thing about Jim was that he liked to help people. People from all over, from all walks of life would show up at our doorstep with their stories and he would at least hear them out, and always help if he could. He was such a sweetheart and will be missed by many many people."