

Pallbearers, who were school mates, included Dallas Peter Capesius, Richard Wampach, George Schmitt, John Vierling, Thomas Hovorka, and William Ries.

Six Shakopee boy scouts served as honorary pallbearers.

The burial of Manuel Lee Florez was at St. Mary's Cemetery, now called the Shakopee Catholic Cemetery.



Ohíye S'a (Dr. Charles Alexander Eastman) (1858–1939) was a Santee Dakota physician, writer, national lecturer, and reformer. Eastman was of Santee Dakota, English and French ancestry. After working as a physician on reservations in South Dakota, he became increasingly active in politics and issues on Native American rights. He worked to improve the lives of youths, and found the Boy Scouts of America. Manuel Lee Florez was one of them, and was active in the Shakopee Boy Scouts.



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Manuel Lee Florez
1938-1952



Manuel Manny Lee Florez was born in Shakopee on May 1, 1938. His was the son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Weldon) Vig. His three sisters, Elizabeth, Darlene and Doris, and his brother, John, lived with him in a house near Sand Pit Road in Shakopee.

Manuel attended St. Mary's School, and he served as an altar boy. He was a member of the St. Mary's Altar Boys' Society.

His friend, Nancy Metcalf Schmit was with Manuel, as they were at recess. It was in 1951. Manny was in the eighth grade. While on the playground, Manuel fell down and skinned his knee. He had to go to the hospital. Doctors discovered that Manuel was the victim of cancer of the bone, and by January 1952, one of his legs was amputated after a serious infection in an effort to prolong his life.



On left is Nancy Metcalf Schmit, who was in class with Manuel Lee Florez, and remembered her classmate. On right is St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shakopee, with altar boys from the St. Mary's Altar Boys' Society. Manuel Lee Florez was an altar server.



Despite his surgery, Manuel remained cheerful and hopeful of recovery. He wanted to go back to participating in the Boy Scout troop in Shakopee. He was a model pupil, with an absorbing interest in school work. At one point, Manuel gave a girl from St. Mary's a locket, with a piece of hair in it. The girl held onto the locket, and kept it for years and years.

Manuel Lee Florez had to leave eighth grade when the illness forced him to leave St. Mary's School. Despite his suffering, Manuel, who was a model pupil with an absorbing interest in school work, had looked forward to continuing his studies when his health permitted.

Manuel's illness lasted for ten months.

Nancy and four of her friends went to visit Manuel at his home. The home was on the Sand Pit Road. It was an old brick house, red in

color.

When they arrived, Nancy asked if they could see Manuel. She was told that he was in the room on the second floor.

As they crept up the stairs, Nancy and her 4 friends looked in the room. They looked in the bedroom. Manuel Florez looked like an old man, sitting on a chair by the window. As they headed back down to the first floor, Nancy was ready to asked where Manuel was. But then it hit her. The old man in the window was Manuel, slowly fading away.

On a Saturday morning in November, 1952, Manuel Lee Florez died.

Manuel had a funeral at St. Mary's Church. Fr. Henry Byrne sang the requiem mass. Fr. Donald Salt and Fr. John Flaherty were present in the sanctuary.