

October 1, 2005

Obit: John Luce, Jr.

- John F. Luce, Jr., age 48, of Gettysburg, died Friday, September 9, 2005 as the result of an airplane accident near Faulkton.
- His funeral was held Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at the Legion Annex, Gettysburg with the Rev. Bert Van Essen officiating. Burial was in the Gettysburg Cemetery under the direction of Luce Funeral Home.
- John Francis Luce, Jr was born on February 15, 1957 at Aberdeen, SD to John F and Vivian (Klapperich) Luce. He grew up in Aberdeen until 1967 when the family moved to Groton, SD. He



graduated from the Groton High School in 1975. He then attended Northern State College in Aberdeen for 2 years and graduated from Mt Hood Community College in Gresham Oregon in 1978 with a degree in Mortuary Science. In June of 1978 moved to Faulkton, SD to manage the Langslet Funeral Home. In 1982 he purchased the Langslet Funeral Homes in Faulkton and Gettysburg and moved to Gettysburg in August of 1982. In 1985 opened the Luce Funeral Home in Eagle Butte. In 1986 along with Ken Ripley purchased the Larson Funeral Home in Mobridge. In 1986 he and his wife purchased the Sears Catalogue Store in Gettysburg, of which his wife managed. In 1997 along with Ken Ripley purchased Kesling Funeral Home in Mobridge. In March of 2000 John purchased the Reck Funeral Home in Miller, SD. He later acquired Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton and Mohs Funeral Home, Webster. Lastly in February of 2005 Luce Funeral Home was purchased.

- John married Jeannine Diestel on June 4, 1977 at St John's Catholic Church in Groton, SD. They were divorced in 1991. He married Carmen Combellick in 2001 and they were divorced in 2003.
- John is a member of the SD Funeral Directors Assn having served as its president. He is a member of the Gettysburg Country Club, Wheatland Lions, and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. He has served as Faulk County Coroner from 1978 until 1982 and as Potter County Coroner from 1982 until his death.
- He is survived by his mother: Vivian Luce of Gettysburg; six children: Matthew Luce of Kansas City, Trina (Mart) Zomers of Moorhead, MN, John Luce III of Aberdeen, Tiera Combellick of Gettysburg, Teryn "Gator" Combellick of Gettysburg and Avery Dutt of Gettysburg. He has 12 grandchildren, 1 brother: Steve (Terri) Luce of Powder Springs, Georgia; 3 sisters: Vickie (Bruce) Sippel of Groton, Kathy (Bryan) Evjan of Watertown, and Sherrie (Dean) Van Zee of St Lawrence, SD; people who shared in his life: Lynette Dutt and Marlys Hinckley.
- Preceding him in death was his father, Francis and 1 niece: Lisa Sippel.
- In lieu of flowers memorial are preferred. The memorials will be directed to the Shrine Hospital.

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John F. Luce, Jr., age 48, of Gettysburg, died Friday, September 9, 2005 as the result of an airplane accident near Faulkton.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at the Legion Annex, Gettysburg with Rev. Bert Van Essen officiating. Burial will be in the Gettysburg Cemetery under the direction of Luce Funeral Home. Visitations will be Tuesday, September 13, 2005 from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home. A prayer services will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Annex.

John Francis Luce, Jr was born on February 15, 1957 at Aberdeen, SD to John F and Vivian (Klapperich) Luce. He grew up in Aberdeen until 1967 when the family moved to Groton, SD. He graduated from the Groton High School in 1975. He then attended Northern State College in Aberdeen for 2 years and graduated from Mt Hood Community College in Gresham Oregon in 1978 with a degree in Mortuary Science. In June of 1978 moved to Faulkton, SD to manage the Langslet Funeral Home. In 1982 he purchased the Langslet Funeral Homes in Faulkton and Gettysburg and moved to Gettysburg in August of 1982. In 1985 opened the Luce Funeral Home in Eagle Butte. In 1986 along with Ken Ripley purchased the Larson Funeral Home in Mobridge. In 1986 he and his wife purchased the Sears Catalogue Store in Gettysburg, of which his wife managed. In 1997 along with Ken Ripley purchased Kesling Funeral Home in Mobridge. In March of 2000 John purchased the Reck Funeral Home in Miller, SD. He later acquired Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton and Mohs Funeral Home, Webster. Lastly in February of 2005 Luce Funeral Home was purchased.

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