

Robert “Robby” Timothy Cavanaugh Sr. was born to Robert “Hank” Henry Cavanaugh and Betty “Doll” Smith on July 10, 1975, in Devils Lake, North Dakota. He passed away on February 24, 2026, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, surrounded by his loving family.

Robby attended school in Devils Lake and at Four Winds, graduating with the Four Winds Class of 1993.

In his youth, he spent his summers in Montana with his Uncle Terry Alex. He attended powwows and Sundance ceremonies. During Sundance, he received his first name, “Fire Keeper,” for helping with the sacred fire. He completed his four years of Sundance by the age of 14. He later received his second name, Hoka Zi, meaning “Yellow Badger,” at Sundance as well.

Robby loved the Native American Church way of life. He grew up attending meetings with Grandma Morgan and family. He taught himself how to bead, make fans, and create many other crafts.

Robby joined the United States Marine Corps in 1993 at the age of 17, leaving one week before high school graduation. He turned 18 during boot camp and achieved the rank of Lance Corporal. He was part of the force that provided cover for the final withdrawal of United Nations troops in Somalia during Operation United Shield. While serving, he traveled the world aboard ship. He saved his leave time so he could return home early, arriving on March 31, 1997, the same day his niece, Elizabeth (Robertson) Sali, was born. Robby was very proud to be a Marine. He was honorably discharged on May 5, 2001.

After his time in the Marines, Robby worked as a wildland firefighter. Through firefighting, he traveled across the United States. He was also part of the crews that helped recover debris from the Space Shuttle Columbia.

In 2002, he welcomed his first daughter, Renee “NayNayz” Cavanaugh, with Anna Feather. In 2006, he had his second daughter, Miara Robertson, and in 2010 he welcomed his son, Robert “Handsome” Cavanaugh Jr., both with Melanie Robertson. He loved his children very much and enjoyed watching movies and television shows with them.

Robby began working at the age of 14 at the 2 Spot Café in Devils Lake. Throughout his life, he held several jobs, but his true passion was always firefighting.

In his free time, Robby liked to have a GOOD time. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his friends and family. He loved being outdoors and appreciated nature, often pointing out different birds and animals.

Semper Fi

He is survived by: His mother, Betty “Doll” Smith; Siblings: Carla (Art) Carmona; Trent Anderson; Myra Cavanaugh; Reggie (Brittany) Cavanaugh Sr.; Ryan Cavanaugh; Dara (Abe) Smith; and Darcy Smith; Children: Renee “NayNayz” Cavanaugh; Miara (Vinson) Robertson; and Robert “Handsome” Cavanaugh Jr.; Goddaughter: Anika Cavanaugh; Aunts: Myra Pearson; Candace Volk; and Myra Quinn; Uncles: Terry Alex and Butch Cavanaugh; Grandparents: Delbert “Lefty” Cloud and Corrine Cloud; Many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by: His father, Robert “Hank” Cavanaugh; Paternal grandparents, Percy and Elizabeth (Twohearts) Cavanaugh; Maternal grandparents, Harold and Elizabeth (Cloud) Morgan; Great-grandfather, Sam Cloud; Stepfather, Donnie Smith; Several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Robert T. Cavanaugh Sr.
Hoka Zi “Yellow Badger”

JULY 10, 1975 – FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Celebrating The Life Of
Robert Timothy Cavanaugh Sr.

July 10, 1975 – Devils Lake, ND
February 24, 2026 – Grand Forks, ND

DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I, and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.
Call me by my old familiar name,
speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put No difference in your tone,
wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the
little jokes we enjoyed together.
Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was, let it be spoken
without effect, without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant. It is the
same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you, for an interval,
Somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well.
- Henry Scott Holland

VISITATION & PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, March 1, 2026
Visitation 5:00PM ~ Prayer Service 7:00PM
Fort Totten Rec. Center, Fort Totten, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday, March 2, 2026
10:00AM
Fort Totten Rec. Center, Fort Totten, ND

OFFICIATING

Fr. Steven Meyer & Terrence "Tee" Morgan

SPECIAL MUSIC

All Music and Drum Groups

PALLBEARERS

Terrence "Tee" Morgan ~ Austin Lamrose ~ Anthony Carmona
Trey Carmona ~ Zylar Charboneau ~ Reggie "Baby Reg" Cavanaugh Jr.
Romeo Cavanaugh ~ Vinson Littleghost

HONORARY BEARERS

All of Robby's Family, Friends, and Military Brothers

SPECIAL THANKS

Mary Cavanaugh; Brittany Iceman and family; Dakota Health & Wellness
Transportation; Grand Forks Altru ICU staff; Spirit Lake EMS; VFW Post
6547; Altru Veterans; Spirit Lake Tribal Council; Spirit Lake Casino; Kristi-
Kojack and family; Mary Greene; Brian Pearson; Myra Pearson; Margo and Jeff
Decoteau; Terry and Martina Morgan; Romie Cavanaugh; Chepa Cloud; Anika;
Baby Reg; Jolie Cavanaugh; Jason Green; and Vanessa Cavanaugh.

Please forgive us if anyone was unintentionally omitted.

MILITARY HONORS

VFW Post #6547, Fort Totten, ND
North Dakota Marine Funeral Honors Team

BURIAL

Lighthouse Assembly of God Cemetery, Fort Totten, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com