



Mission of Love



*"You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach."
~ Kathleen Price*

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO LAKOTA PRAIRIE RANCH

President Obama's Council On Service and Civic Participation Award was given to Rusty Puckett, owner of Lakota Prairie Ranch Motel and Restaurant in Kyle, South Dakota. President Obama reiterated his Inaugural Address in his congratulatory letter to Rusty Puckett "that we need a new era of responsibility—recognizing on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, to our Nation, and to our world." In his award letter, he continued to write, "these duties of service that we do, not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the belief that there is nothing so gratifying to our spirit than giving our ALL to a difficult task."

Family, friends and co-workers all gathered at the Lakota Prairie Ranch conference room on Sunday morning, May 30, 2010 as Bob Elston, Kathleen Price, Director/founder of Mission of Love (former recipient of this award also) and Patricia Catches The Enemy presented the awards to Puckett.

Family and friends commented about Rusty as he received his award. "We are really fortunate to have good kids" says his mother, "He was always working, doing something for somebody, he loved little people, animals and most of all his children as well as helping others in need." Rusty attended Little Wound School and graduated from there. The oldest of five sons of Phil & Vinney, Rusty set the pace for his siblings. He helped his parents at the ranch while growing up and went into the construction business after high school and simply self-taught many skills he has. When he goes hunting with his brothers, he shoots pictures instead of game, continues his mother.

Rusty Puckett built and manages the only one-of-a-kind thriving motel and restaurant on the Pine Ridge Reservation called Lakota Prairie Ranch. He not only employs local workers but his establishment has an RV Park/Campgrounds, Cabins, guided hunts and is open all year round. Stop by next time you're in the vicinity and you may see Rusty in action, either cooking something delicious, working behind the register, driving a truck or fixing somebody's roof., that's Rusty.

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