



Mertie Charlene Bowen

Mertie was born January 22, 1934, in New Underwood, SD, to Henry and Laura (Eveleth) Wildberger.

On July 12, 1953, in Sturgis, SD, Mertie was joined in marriage with Eugene Edward Bowen. They were married 38 years until Gene's death in 1991. To this union were born two daughters and one son.

Mertie spent her first four years in Union Center then in 1938 moved with her family to the Boulder Canyon ranch where she resided until her marriage. She attended Boulder Park School through sixth grade and her remaining school years at "town" school, graduating in 1951 from Sturgis High School. For a short time, Mertie worked at Sturgis Hospital. She was employed as a clerk at Black Hills Power and Light from 1963 to 1976 until health issues caused her to separate from the company. Mertie was a long-standing member of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis, SD, serving on the church council. She particularly enjoyed attending her ladies Bible studies. Mertie was also a long-standing member of the VFW auxiliary. In 2006, Mertie moved to Rapid City to live at the Echo Ridge assisted living complex. Mertie loved the sunshine, flowers, frogs and birds. She was an avid reader, a spirited Colorado Rockies fan and enjoyed a "mean" game of Scrabble, Rummikub, or Cribbage with her daughters, grandson, Charles, and friends.

Mertie Charlene Bowen, 83, was joyfully met by our Heavenly Father on June 18, 2017, at Fountain Springs Healthcare Center in Rapid City, SD.

Mertie is survived by daughters, Cathy (Gary) Svarstad of Rapid City and Mary Jo Cotter (Gary Jewell) of Kingsville, MO; her sisters, Twyla Huffman of Sturgis and Valda Yamada of Kent, WA; four grandsons; one granddaughter; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her son, Charles; husband, Eugene; brother, Thomas; sister, Dorothea; her parents, Henry and Laura Wildberger; and grandson, Caine, Sr.

A memorial has been established.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



The family would like you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the committal in the church basement in the Son Shine room. We thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of



Mertie Charlene Bowen

1934 ~ 2017



The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; Thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head
with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In Loving Memory Of

Mertie Charlene Bowen

Born

January 22, 1934
New Underwood, South Dakota

Died

June 18, 2017
Rapid City, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Monday, June 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Willard Olsen

Musician

Marlene Kotab

Musical Selections

“The Lord’s Prayer” “How Great Thou Art”
“What A Friend” “Borning Cry”

Pallbearers

Bernie Tveidt ~ Charles Svarstad ~ Richard Cotter
Daniel Cotter ~ Ray Lesmeister ~ Bob Skvang

Honorary Pallbearers

Major Kelly Svarstad
Great - Grandchildren;
Berkley, Caine, Rhett, Andrew, Matthew,
Brayden, Micah, Ellen and Christopher

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota