

Marlene May (Millar) Natchke

In Loving Memory Of

Marlene was born March 11, 1937, in Clear Lake, SD, to John Klein Millar and Hannah Elfrink. After multiple moves, the family resided in Potter County, SD, where Marlene attended school. While caring for a family friend, she met her future husband, Robert, at Whitlock's Bay, SD. One smile from her and he was hooked for life. They were married November 12, 1954.

In 1959, they left the Gettysburg, SD, area for Rapid City, SD, and a year later, they moved to Sturgis, SD, where they raised their seven children...and a large garden to feed all the hungry mouths. Her love of family was paramount in her life, yet she made time to nurture solid, lasting friendships.

Bob and Marlene enjoyed making new friends after their move to Newcastle, WY. They were regulars at many of the local restaurants, as well as the Senior Center, where they indulged their sweet tooth with warm, tasty cinnamon rolls each week. Marlene accompanied her husband to many cowboy poetry gatherings and became known as "Dakota Mom," a counterpart to his "Dakota Slim." Many a poem was written about their life and adventures.

In 1977, Marlene was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Although that disease continued to ravage her body, she fought it with humor, courage, dignity and grace until the end.

Marlene May (Millar) Natchke died Thursday, April 26, 2018, at Weston County Manor in Newcastle, WY.

Marlene is survived by seven children: daughters, Joy Manning and Vonnie Bachand; sons, David, Paul, Mark, Neil, and Eli; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister; a brother; as well as many others who called her "Mom."

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Dakota Slim," her parents; one daughter; one sister; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Weston County Children's Center in Newcastle, WY, to honor Marlene's love of children and family.

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



Marlene May (Millar) Natchke

1937 ~ 2018

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch following committal at the Vet's Club in Sturgis. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



Mama's Smile and Laugh

No one can escape the day
When lives and paths divide.
We now have to walk life's road alone
Without you by our side.

Your smile warmed our hearts;
Your laughter brought such cheer.
Yet we would give so much
To have you standing here.

Though your smile is gone from our sight
And your laughter we no longer hear,
Still we have so many memories
Of the Mama we hold so dear.

Your smiles and laughter are our treasure
From which we will never part.
Jehovah has you in His memory,
While we have you in our hearts.

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Marlene May (Millar) Natchke

Born

March 11, 1937
Clear Lake, South Dakota

Died

April 26, 2018
Weston County Manor
Newcastle, Wyoming

Graveside Services

Monday, May 14, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.
Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

Speaker

Joy Manning

Musician

Bagpiper ~ Grandson
Sean Natchke

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota