

## **Norma Jean (Palmer) Van Sickle**

Norma Jean (Palmer) Van Sickle was born in Faith, SD, on June 28, 1931, to Grace Alverda (Murphy) Palmer and LeRoy Vern Palmer. She was 1 of 12 children, growing up in the Red Owl, SD, area.

Jean married Gale "Jack" Van Sickle on January 17, 1948. They lived most of their lives around Faith and Sturgis, SD, areas. To this union, 5 children were born: Galen Van Sickle, Aletha (Paul) Adcock, Terry Van Sickle, Velta (Rich) Grosch, and Jerry Van Sickle.

Jean worked as a waitress at the Westerner Café, as a dental assistant to Dr. Robert Woods, DDS, Ft. Meade Food Service, Dr. Hines and Watson, DO., and Wal-Mart, retiring from Wal-Mart after working for the company 19 years. She loved all the jobs she had and did them well. Her love for people showed in all that she did when she provided service to the people she encountered in her various jobs. In between and around these jobs, she and Jack started traveling south for the winter months.

A feat that Jean was very proud of was completing her GED and obtaining her high school diploma around 1971. She then went on to complete 2 years of clerical school at the Sturgis Vo/Tech.

She was a member of the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Sturgis Community Hospital Auxiliary, the Sturgis/Meade County Senior Citizen Center, VFW Auxiliary, the Button & Bows Club, TOPS SD#105 club, and the Red Hats of Sturgis. Jean was a baptized member of the Sturgis Church of Christ, but had many friends of all denominations of faith.

Jean was also an avid seamstress, making all of her children's clothing and lots of western shirts (without patterns) for many in the family. Later, she had various other hobbies such as card playing, crochet, knitting, card making, and fun crafting, which she continued to do and share with the residents of the Sturgis Nursing home until a stroke in 2017 caused her to be unable to do her crafts.

Jean was a very determined soul, loving life and all that it had to offer, including her 8 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. In 1949, she was a polio victim survivor and in 1972, she became a cancer survivor. Even though she was dealt these health challenges, she never let it stop her and she kept on smiling. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Jean, 87, Sturgis, died Monday, September 17, 2018, in the Lippold Hospice Suite at Sturgis Regional Hospital.

Jean is survived by her husband of 70 years, Jack; her children, Galen Van Sickle of St. George, UT, Aletha (Paul) Adcock of Hermosa, SD, Velta (Rich) Grosch of Whitewood, SD, and Jerry Van Sickle of Lake Powell, UT; sisters, June Tennis and Darliene Keffeler; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Jean was preceded in death by a son, Terry Van Sickle; her parents; brothers, Floyd, Jim, Dave, and Glenn; sisters, Dorothy Ypperilla, Alverda Wall, Ellen Talley, Larayne Clem, and Marjo Speakman; and several nephews and nieces.

The family would like and encourage any Red Hatters to wear their Red Hat attire should they feel so inclined. She loved the Red Hatters and dressing up for their events, which was evidenced by the many fancy Red Hats and articles of clothing still in her room at the nursing home.

Memorials have been established to the Meade County Senior Citizen Center and the Lippold Hospice Unit in Sturgis, SD.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).



*In Loving Memory Of*

*Norma Jean Van Sickle*

*1931 ~ 2018*

*The family invites you to a lunch reception in the basement of the Sturgis Church of Christ immediately following the memorial service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

## **When God Created Mothers...**

When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 180 movable parts...all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that disappears when she stands up, a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair and six pair of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pair of hands...no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pair of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the Angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the one here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and says, 'I understand and I love you' without as much as muttering a word."

"Lord," said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, "Come to bed. Tomorrow..."

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

"There's a leak," She pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there."

Erma Bombeck

## ***In Loving Memory Of Norma Jean Van Sickel***

### ***Born***

June 28, 1931

Faith, South Dakota

### ***Died***

September 17, 2018

Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Memorial Service***

Saturday, September 22, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.

Kinkade Funeral Chapel

Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Officiant***

Pastor Ozzy McDaniel

### ***Musicians***

Danny Chapman

Suzie Payne

### ***Musical Selections***

"Just A Closer Walk with Thee"

"How Great Thou Art"

"Green, Green Grass of Home"

"Why Me Lord"

### ***Inurnment***

10:00 a.m.

Monday, September 24, 2018

Black Hills National Cemetery

Sturgis, South Dakota