



WALKING WITH GRANDMA

*I like to walk with Grandma
Her steps are short like mine
She doesn't say "Now hurry up,"
She always takes her time.

I like to walk Grandma
Her eyes see things like mine do
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,
Half hidden drops of dew
Most people have to hurry
They do not stop and see
I'm glad that God made Grandma
Unrushed and young like me.*



Visitation:

5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2023
Reck Funeral Home
Miller, South Dakota

Funeral Service:

2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 17, 2023
First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

Minister: Rev. Teresa Whetsel

Casketbearers:

Fain Geiger - Earl Rhody - Chris Page
Travis Goodall - Kelby Goodall
Troy Gortmaker - Chuck Steptoe

Honorary Casketbearers: Janie Schuchard
All Mardella's Grandchildren
& Great Grandchildren
Staff at the Jenkins Living Center

Music Selections:

"Amazing Grace"
"Go Rest High on that Mountain"

Interment:

G.A.R. Cemetery
Miller, South Dakota



IN LOVING
Memory

Mardella Gortmaker

November 9, 1941
August 12, 2023



Mardella Gortmaker, 81, of Watertown and formerly of Miller, passed away Saturday, August 12, 2023, at the Jenkins Living Center in Watertown.

Mardella Marie (Tiff) Gortmaker was born on November 9, 1941, to Harry & Hazel (Lancaster) Tiff on the farm. She grew up near Doland and attended country school through the 8th grade. Mardella and her family moved to California where she entered high school.

She met Louis (Louie) Gortmaker in Doland, while she was back for a vacation, and he followed her back out to California where they then got married on January 4, 1958. They, then, moved back to Miller, where she worked for Rexall Drug for over 30 years until her health forced her to retire. She, then, moved to Henry in 2011, where she resided until becoming a resident of Jenkins Living Center in Watertown until her passing. The Jenkins nursing staff was like a second family to her.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church, Miller. She loved playing bingo, dancing, playing cards, and she bowled for many years. She also loved spending time with her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. She was a great cook and baker and LOVED Elvis Presley. Mardella also loved reading and doing crossword puzzles.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Roxanne (Fain) Geiger of Henry, SD; granddaughter, Alyssa (Earl) Rhody of Clear Lake, SD; grandson, Kelby Goodall of Henry, SD; great grandchildren: Tierra (Chris Page) Rhody of Henry, SD, Hayley Goodall of Henry, SD, and Travis Goodall of Henry, SD; great great grandchildren: Zaliah Breese, Willow Breese, Gavin Page, and Jameson Page of Henry, SD; brother, Darrell (Shirley) Tiff of Branson, MO; several sisters and brothers-in-law; nieces; and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Louis (Louie) Gortmaker; an infant son, Randy Gortmaker; parents: Harry and Hazel Tiff; sisters: Janice Battest and Evelyn Tiff; brothers: Delbert Tiff and Allen (Keith) Tiff; mother and father-in-law; grandparents; and several sister and brothers-in-law; and nieces and nephews.

MOTHER
You are the sweetest person
I have ever found.
For caring and sharing
You should be world reknowned.
Words cannot describe
How you have made me feel blessed,
But I'll try anyway.
"Mom, You're the Best!"
-Regina Graham