

Judy Raethz, 68, of Faulkton, passed away Thursday, September 3, 2015 at the Faulkton Senior Living Center after losing her 29-year battle with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Judy Ann Cunningham was born August 28, 1947 to Joseph “Jodie” and Theresa (Waldman) Cunningham in Hoven, SD. Judy attended school in Onaka, SD until the sixth grade. In 1958 her family moved to Faulkton where she graduated from high school in 1965. Following graduation, Judy moved to Minneapolis and worked in the IDS tower for a short period of time before returning to Faulkton where she worked as a teller at the Faulk County State Bank.

On June 15, 1968 she married the love of her life, Richard “Dick” Raethz of Cresbard. Dick and Judy raised their three children on the Raethz family farm, southwest of Cresbard, until 1979 when they sold the farm and relocated to Faulkton. Judy continued raising her family while working various jobs as a craft store owner (Judy’s Arts and Crafts), bookkeeper and daycare provider. In 1986 Judy was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. When working became limited for Judy she continued to work and was employed at Missouri River Tackle and as a mail carrier for the US Postal Service for many years. Judy moved into the Faulkton Senior Living Center in 2002 and resided there for the final 13 years until she lost her battle with MS.

She was a member of the St. Thomas Catholic Church of Faulkton and a member of Lakeside Country Club. Judy adored her children and grandchildren and was proud of all their accomplishments. She enjoyed playing cards, dancing, attending bingo functions, and listening to her husband’s musical events. She was crowned 2015 Queen of Hearts at the Faulkton Senior Living Center and recently celebrated her 50th class reunion at R&R Hunting Lodge this summer. She was an inspiration to us all and will continue to be so as she lays in her final resting place next to her children she so adored.

Survivors include her husband Richard “Dick” of Faulkton; daughter, Shelly Sepulveda of Fountain Valley, CA; son, Jerod (Lisa) Raethz of Faulkton; three sisters, Arlene (Paul) Mardian of Aberdeen, Carol (Jim) Shoup of Onida, Kathy (Eric) Gunlogson of Fridley, MN, and one brother, Richard (Jo) Cunningham of Hot Springs; granddaughters, Kayla and Haley Sepulveda of Fountain Valley, CA and Bailey, Ella and Aedyn Raethz of Faulkton and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her two children Carmalie and Jovin; her parents: Jodie & Theresa Cunningham; and grandparents. Walter and Lena Waldman and Charles and Alice Cunningham.

A Celebration of Life



Judy Raethz

August 28, 1947 ~ September 3, 2015



*God saw she was getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around her
And whispered "Come with me."*

*With tearful eyes
We watched her suffer
And saw her fade away
Although we loved her dearly,
We would not make her stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*



Faulkton, South Dakota
www.familufuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory

Judy Raethz

*August 28, 1947
Hoven, South Dakota*

*September 3, 2015
Faulkton, South Dakota*

FUNERAL MASS

*10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2015
St. Thomas Catholic Church ~ Faulkton, South Dakota*

OFFICIATING: *Fr. Christopher Hughes*

LECTOR: *Bill Warren*

EULOGIST: *Eric Bauer*

OFFERTORY: "Grandchildren"

*Kayla and Haley Sepulveda
Bailey, Ella and Aedyn Raethz*

HONOR BEARERS :

Faulkton Senior Living Staff & Residents

USHERS: *Slade Roseland & Randy Bauer*

MUSICIANS:

Linda Bartholomew, Jerry Bowar, & Chris Hammond

HYMNS:

*"On Eagle's Wings" "Here I Am Lord"
"Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" "You Raise Me Up"
"How Great Thou Art"*

INTERMENT:

St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery ~ Faulkton, South Dakota