

We couldn't begin, To count the times
 She tolerated our moods,
 Consoled our heartbreaks & disappointments,
 Endured our ups and downs,
 LISTENED to words confused by tears
 And just simply understood
 For no other reason
 Than because **SHE LOVED US.**
 The years hold
Precious Memories,
 But most of all they hold growth.
 In a way, we grew up together...
 Mom is our definition
 Of a special person... Fantastic...
 Exceptional... Unique... Enduring!
 She filled our lives with **HAPPINESS**
 And sweet feelings that we will
 Carry in our hearts *forever*



In Loving Memory Of

Donna Gail McGaugh

August 30, 1934
 Mansfield, South Dakota

January 12, 2023
 Aberdeen, South Dakota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

2:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2023
 Cresbard Methodist Church
 Cresbard, South Dakota

OFFICIATING: Rev. Seth Duncan

GUESTBOOK: Janet and Craig Kretschmar

USHERS:

Monte Kretschmar and Marlin Newman

MUSICIAN: Elaine Snow

HYMNS: "In the Garden" "Heaven's Garden"
 "When God Made You My Mother"
 "Because He Lives"

INURNMENT:

Cresbard Cemetery
 Cresbard, South Dakota

*Everyone is invited to a reception at the Cresbard Community Center directly following the service.



Donna McGaugh, 88, of Chelsea passed away Thursday, January 12, 2023, at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, SD, surrounded by her loving family.

Donna Gail Holt was born August 30, 1934, to Doris (Allen) and Howard Holt, by a midwife in Mansfield, SD. She was raised on the family farm near Chelsea, where she also lived most of her life. Donna graduated from Cresbard High School in 1952. On June 8, 1952, she married her high school sweetheart David McGaugh, and from that union they had five children: David (Corky) McGaugh, Debra McGaugh, Krystal (Steve) Benning, Sue (Richard) Fox and Scott (Kay) McGaugh.

Donna was a member of the United Methodist Church in Cresbard and many ladies' groups in the church. She taught UMYF, was a dedicated leader supporting her children in 4-H, and a member of Eastern Star and received her 50 year pin several years ago.

Donna was a strong, hard working farm wife, mother, partner, and master of many things – "best cook ever" and she was known for her delicious chocolate pie. She could sew anything from curtains to wedding dresses and grew beautiful flowers and vegetables in her greenhouse and gardens. She helped care for all the farm animals and lambing season was her favorite. After she could no longer tend to the animals, she still went outside to feed and care for the cats. She vowed she wouldn't leave the farm until her work was done and God called her home.

Donna's true joy was her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. She was dearly loved by one and all. She loved watching them in their school activities and sporting events when she could get to them; and when she couldn't anymore, she watched on her I-pad or TV. She was very proud of each of them in all of their accomplishments. She played cards and board games with them all, and the little ones loved her stash of toys in the living room. She kept close track of each calendar month, and every family member received a card with money on their birthday.

Grateful for sharing in her life are her children; grandchildren: Carl, John, David, James, Heidi, Travis, Sarah, Amanda, Patrick, Michael, Andrew, Jacklyn, Cari, Ryan, Justin, Angela, Daniel, Jeffrey and Abby; 52 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; beloved sister, Bonnie Melius; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, David McGaugh; parents, Howard and Doris (Allen) Holt; in-laws: Gene, Margaret (Gerdes) and Inez (Gabler) McGaugh; sister, Jean (Holt) Johnson; brother, Pete Holt; and brothers-in-law: Doug McGaugh, Lyle Melius, and Chuck Johnson.

