

In Loving Memory

Janet Lavonne Gesinger

October 6, 1935

August 17, 2025

Potter County, South Dakota

Gettysburg, South Dakota

WAKE:

7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 2025

Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE:

2:00 p.m., Friday, August 22, 2025

Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIATING:

Fr. Brian Simon

LECTOR:

Mike Bohnenkamp

CASKET BEARERS: "GRANDSONS"

Travis Tolbert, Jacob Tolbert, Clayton Tolbert,
Austin Gesinger, Kelan Gesinger, and Blake Widvey

MUSICIAN:

Colleen Simon

VOCALIST:

Judy Fiddler

HYMNS:

"Amazing Grace" "On Eagle's Wings"

"On the Wings of a Snow White Dove"

"Song of Farewell" "Carry Me Home"

INTERMENT:

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery

Gettysburg, South Dakota

When you lived your life for others
and you loved *without condition*
When you made so many laugh and your
smile won't be forgotten
When you left behind an empty place
that no one else can fill
When the friendships that you shared
long to be renewed
When you built your life on hope
and fulfilled it every day
The *footprints* that you left behind
will bring us face to face
So, *goodbye* is not forever,
You're only steps away.



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

Janet Lavonne Gesinger, 89, of rural Ridgeview, passed away Sunday, August 17, 2025, at Avera Oahe Manor, Gettysburg.

Janet Kearns was born on October 6, 1935, in Potter County, SD, to Owen Meredith and Jeanie (Sutton) Kearns. She was delivered by her neighbor, Mrs. Grant Osborne, and lovingly welcomed by her siblings, Edith, Edwin, Frances, and Dorothy. Janet attended grade school at Bridge Store School in Forest City and graduated from high school in Gettysburg.

In 1953, at the age of 18, Janet met her future husband, Robert Gesinger, at the Medicine Rock Café. They were married on July 11, 1954, at the Catholic Church in Old Cheyenne Agency. Together, they raised six children: Roslyn “Kitty,” Roberta “Birdy,” Blaine, Kenny, Janelle, and Peggy.

In 1955, Janet and Robert moved to Moab, UT, where Robert worked in the uranium mines. They later relocated to Rawlins, WY, before returning home to Ridgeview in June 1956 after Robert’s father suffered a heart attack. There, they helped with the family farm and ranch, raising their children alongside Dory’s son, David.

Janet had a gift for making others feel welcome. She never met a stranger, opening her home with warmth and kindness to everyone she encountered. While balancing farm and ranch life and raising six children, she still found time to sew clothing for her kids, assist with countless school projects, and cultivate a large garden.

She was endlessly creative and hardworking—selling Watkins products at craft fairs and later making and selling her own beautiful creations, including chain maille and magnetic jewelry, that brought joy and comfort to many. She was also known for her calligraphy, paintings, quilting, and other handmade treasures. But above all, people remembered her for her gentle spirit, quick wit, and the way she made every person feel special. As many have said, “Your mom was the kindest lady—funny and such a joy to be around.”

Janet also had a knack for luck, especially with the slot machines—a talent her family only fully realized in later years. Well into her late eighties, she was still driving to Mobridge, Gettysburg, and Pierre for shopping, farm and ranch business, and visits with friends. At 89 years old, she remained as independent, vibrant, and full of life as ever.

Those remaining to cherish Janet’s life are her children: Roslyn “Kitty” Webster, Craig, CO, Blaine (Deedra) Gesinger, Pierre, SD, Kenny (Mary Kaye) Gesinger, Armstrong Co, SD, Janelle Gesinger (John Hilt), Las Vegas, NV, and Peggy Gesinger, Weatherford, TX; bonus son, David Krovoza, Williams, AZ; grandchildren: Courtney, Kelan, and Austin Gesinger, Logan (Blake) Widvey, and Travis, Jake (Elise), and Clayton Tolbert (Riley Barrera); great grandchildren: Kiercen, Kahler, and Krue Gesinger and Rowan, Ruger, and Palmer Tolbert; and one sister, Dorothy Lesmeister.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Owen and Jeanie; her husband, Robert; daughter, Roberta “Birdy” Tolbert; and three siblings: Edith Bartels, and Edwin and Frances Kearns.

Memorials in Janet’s honor may be directed to the Potter County Library, 205 W Commercial Ave, Gettysburg, SD 57442, Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 27, Gettysburg, SD 57442, or Eagle Butte Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 1090, Eagle Butte, SD 57625.

