

To Our Friend Kitty

*Of all the people in our life
From the beginning till the end
You've been a special blessing
My dear and faithful friend
You've filled our lives with laughter
Shared sorrows, joys, and tears
You've stood by us and held our hand
Walked with us through the years
When we needed someone to listen
We knew you were always there
When we weathered the storms of life
You were always the one who cared
So, in this circle, we call life
From beginning to the end
We were blessed to have you beside us
Our dear and faithful friend*

*Thank you for making our days brighter.
You have been an important part of our
lives and have been a blessing to so many people*

*From all the people who loved her,
Kitty was everyone's friend, young and old*



Celebrating
T H E L I F E O F

Kitty Johnson

April 22, 1931 - October 3, 2024

Katherine “Kitty” Johnson, 93, of Highmore, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at Highmore Health.

Kitty was born on April 22, 1931, to Bill and Marie (Ringham) Burdick in Volga, South Dakota. After her family moved to Arlington, she came to Highmore to continue her education. After graduating, she worked in her uncle’s ice cream shop, where she met the love of her life, Duane, who ordered a lime sherbet malt with chocolate syrup—an unusual choice that made a lasting impression. They married in 1951 and enjoyed many wonderful years together.

Kitty and Duane farmed near Holabird until 1969 before moving to Highmore, where Duane began his career as the Hyde County Register of Deeds. Kitty worked at Gene and Betty Davis's clothing store before becoming a beloved teacher’s aide at several country schools in Hyde County and later at Highmore School. With over 40 years in education, she was affectionately known as “Miss Kitty” by her students.

An avid reader, Kitty enjoyed puzzles, playing cards, and games with friends at Highmore Manor and the Senior Center. She cherished her special group of teacher friends, the “Ya, Yas,” who celebrated birthdays together. Kitty was also an excellent seamstress.

A lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, she devoted many years to teaching Sunday school and was an active member of the Eastern Star.

Kitty is survived by her sister, Carol Kessel of Spearfish; her brother, Bill Burdick of Mitchell; many nieces and nephews; and her dear friends: Myrna Hall, Janna Larson, and Marilyn Kutz, who brought joy to her life.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Duane; her parents, Bill and Marie Burdick; brothers: Red, Bruno, and Donny Burdick; sister, Bernice Seitz; brothers-in-law, Lloyd Kessel and Keith Seitz; three nephews: Adam Burdick, Mike Burdick, and Jeff Seitz; and one niece, Annis Schaeffer.

Kitty's loving spirit and dedication to education and community will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Visitation:

9:00 a.m., Monday, October 7, 2024

Funeral Service:

10:00 a.m., Monday, October 7, 2024

United Methodist Church

Highmore, South Dakota

Ministers:

Rev. Allison Galbreath & Roger Day

Casketbearers:

Scott Larson - Skeet Smith - Leroy Scott

Loren Stulken - Jr. Krick - Tim Kessel

Honorary Casketbeares:

All Kitty's many friends

Ushers:

Harold Hinkle & Mike McDonnell

Musicians:

Frankie Rinehart

Roger Day

Musical Selections:

"In the Garden" - "He Touched Me"

"Victory In Jesus" - "The Lord's Prayer"

"You Are My Sunshine"

Burial:

Highmore Cemetery

Highmore, South Dakota

Following the burial, the family warmly invites everyone to join them for lunch and continued fellowship in the church basement. Your presence would mean a lot to them during this time.

Arrangements Entrusted To

Luze Funeral Home - Highmore, S.D.

www.familyfuneralhome.net