



Mom

*Some may think legends start with celebrity stars, I happen to disagree. I think true legends and true stars are born as a little girl that lived in Holabird, South Dakota, with big dreams and big sense of style. As a little girl with a lot of creativity who hid her church-only shoes in the hen house so she could run out and wear them whenever she wanted, cleverness ran through her like a river. Pranks and jokes were her energy, and love and compassion to others was her being.*

*She showed true dedication as a teacher through everything she did, and I think I even see a few Cowboys out there that she may have had to wrangle, only to win first prize every time. She was respected and well thought of; not always because her hair was just perfect (as evidence of a different hat in church every Sunday), but more importantly some of the lessons she taught me as a little girl ...like when she would put money in an envelope with no return address and send it to someone in need. I was never allowed to tell that story, but I've learned the lesson and hope it's ok to share now, Mom.*

*Her tenacity to get through college with a family at home while teaching full-time was successful, as well as going on to professions in computers, insurance, and ultimately her proudest educational moment, her real estate license. She said never stop learning.*

*Her pride and joy, though, were her kids and family... Sorry, I meant the "grandkids", kids and family. Some of us wonder who raised us, compared to who the grandkids got to see, but she made it clear they were her priority and did no wrong, even as she tried to teach her youngest preschooler... and when he wanted recess, and his studies weren't done yet-as she reminded him, his response was "oh yeah baby". Well, that was a teaching first for her!*

*She was a lot like Will Rogers. She never met a person she didn't like or liked her, which is evident by so many friends, acquaintances, family, and loved ones who truly got to share a piece of her special heart.*

*I know she would want to get this party started, as she would say, and for us not to be sad; but how do we continue on without someone who is a shooting star and a legend in our eyes, hearts, and minds?*

*You are the wind beneath our wings, Mom.*

*In her own Sharon style,*

*I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song, seems we just get started, and before you know it, comes the time we have to say ...so long.*

*We love you, Mom*

## *In Loving Memory*



*Sharon K. Baloun*

June 14, 1939  
November 9, 2024

Sharon K. Baloun, 85, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at her home in Sioux Falls.

Sharon was born on June 14, 1939, to Frank and Dolores (Moore) Brady in Holabird, South Dakota. She grew up always being told that the flags were put out just for her on her birthday by her dad, Frank. As a child, Sharon was always clever and found a humorous and tactical way to achieve her goals, like hiding her church-only shoes in the hen house to “sport” them whenever she wanted. She excelled in high school with many friends always by her side, and was voted homecoming queen at Highmore High School her senior year. Sharon used laughter, love, and the ability to charm people to win many friends.

In 1958 she married Darwin Baloun, to whom four children were born; Kim, Kevin, Kip, and Katina. Sharon worked full-time while teaching and raising a family while obtaining her bachelors degree. She always said teaching in Highmore were the best years of her life. Her innovative nature and tenacity helped her bring the first computers to the Highmore High School and she was also invited to speak nationwide at many math/computer conventions. She continued her education by obtaining her insurance license, continuing to work with school systems and ultimately received her realtors license at the age of 75. She never stopped learning.

Sharon was a teacher of life, a humanitarian, and a role model for many. Her infectious smile and “prankability” brought many laughs and life long friends along with her on her journey.

An avid bridge player, or any cards in general, usually gave her a winners title and bragging rights, but if not, many laughs over the crying towel. She loved her grandchildren, children, and family, and taught them many lessons as well. Her grandchildren were her biggest priority and joy.

She also enjoyed bowling, golf, traveling extensively, and anything else that brought her together with friends and laughter, but style was her “shitck” and all her own. You threw a few glitzy stones together and a stylish piece from Neiman and she was all on board.

Like Will Rogers she never met a person she didn’t like.

Sharon is survived by her ex-husband Darwin; four children: Kim, Kevin (Cindy), Kip (Laura), Katina (Robert); 10 grandchildren: Blayne (Laura), Jayme, Kara, Jace; Kyle, Ashley, Connor; Jaxson, Jagger, and Jett; two great grandchildren, Brecken and Brayden; one brother, Mike Brady; and many nephews, nieces, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Dolores Brady; brothers: Pat, her twin, Tommy Ray, and Jim; and sister, Rosemary.

Sharon’s loving spirit and dedication to education will live on in her children, her many students, family, and friends who touched her heart and she touched theirs.

We know she would want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of her life and in her favorite words “I’m so glad we had this time together.”

# *Sharon K. Baloun*

June 14, 1939 – November 9, 2024

## **Wake Service:**

7:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2024  
St. Mary’s Catholic Church – Highmore, S.D.

## **Funeral Mass:**

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 19, 2024  
St. Mary’s Catholic Church – Highmore, S.D.

**Celebrant:** Monsignor Charles Mangan

## **Casketbearers:**

Blayne Baloun, Jayme Baloun, Kara Baloun, Jace Baloun,  
Kyle Baloun, Ashley Baloun, Connor Baloun,  
Jaxson Patriquin, Jett Patriquin, Jagger Patriquin

**Placing of the Pall:** Kim, Kevin, Kip, Katina

**Lector:** Mike Brady

**Eucharistic Minister:** Julie Fieldsend

**Offertory:** Kim, Kevin, Kip, Katina

**Musicians:** Bridget Zilverberg – Roger Day  
Rodney Fieldsend – Chanda Bender

## **Music Selections:**

“The Lord’s Prayer” (Roger Day)  
“The Lord is My Shepherd”  
“How Great Thou Art” (Roger Day)  
“On Eagles’ Wings”  
(Rodney Fieldsend & Chanda Bender)  
“Song of Farewell”  
“Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)”  
(Rodney Fieldsend & Chanda Bender)

## **Burial:**

St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery  
Highmore, South Dakota

*Arrangements Entrusted to*  
Luze Funeral Home – Highmore, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)