



Her Hands

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.
Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.
Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.
Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.
Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.
Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.
Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.

---© Maggie Pittman



Arrangements Entrusted To
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, S.D.
www.familyfuneralhome.net



Remembering
THE LIFE OF

Florence R. Diekhoff
November 27, 1920 - August 1, 2016



Florence Diekhoff, 95, of Miller and formerly of Wessington, passed away Monday, August 1, 2016 at the Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital in Miller.

Florence Ruth Zaboski came into this world on November 27, 1920, to Michael and Mary (Gutkoski) Zaboski in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. She graduated from high school in Wilkes-Barre. She went on to attend Wyoming Seminary and was subsequently employed by Safeway Foods.

In 1943 her brother Edward was working in Baltimore for Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company and he introduced her to this South Dakota farmer, Kenneth Diekhoff. He swept her off her feet and on December 11, 1943, they were married in Baltimore. In 1946, with a new baby they traveled from Pennsylvania to Wessington, South Dakota where they farmed and ranched together. It was quite a culture shock for her coming from a home with running water, indoor plumbing, and electricity to none of these amenities.

She had a passion for gardening and flowers and a tremendous fear of snakes, which luckily there was generally a farm dog to come to her rescue. When the gardening and canning was done and she had time, she enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and taking care of her family and home.

She was witness to a great many inventions and much change during her 95 years. For her an important one was the computer. She truly enjoyed keeping in touch with her Pennsylvania and California families.

When Ken passed in 2001, she had another life changing event. Her "pink" house was moved from the ranch into Miller. And in 2008, three of her favorite people made their home with her.

Flo is survived by her two daughters, Ellen (Russ) Ballard of Buffalo Gap, SD and Becky (Rich) Nelson of Miller, SD; two grandchildren, Sean Brown and Jennifer Nelson; three great granddaughters: Samantha, Kathryn, and Larissa Brown; two great grandsons: Dayken and Davin Bossert; two sisters: Marie Hatcher and Loretta Schaal; two brothers: Michael "Bud" Zaboski and Bernard (Elsie) Zaboski.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ken; one brother; two brothers-in-law; and two sisters-in-law.

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Florence Ruth Diekhoff

Prayer Service:

7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2016
Reck Funeral Home
Miller, South Dakota

Funeral Service:

2:30 p.m., Friday, August 5, 2016
First Presbyterian Church
Wessington, South Dakota

Minister: Rev. Janice Palmer

Casketbearers:

Ron Welch, Dale Duxbury, Jim Major, Tracy Walton,
Tony Welch, Denny McGirr, Lyle Rowen, Jr.

Organist: Cleo Kleinsasser

Congregational Hymns:

"In the Garden "
"Amazing Grace "

Interment:

Wessington Cemetery
Wessington, South Dakota