

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.*

*Then someone at my side says,  
"There, she is gone!"*

*Gone where?*

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout,  
"Here she comes!"  
. . . . and that is dying.*

*- Henry Van Dyke*



*In Loving Memory*  
CELEBRATING A LIFE

**Rosary & Prayer Service:**

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 15, 2017  
St. Ann's Catholic Church - Miller, South Dakota

**Mass of Christian Burial:**

10:30 a.m., Thursday, November 16, 2017  
St. Ann's Catholic Church - Miller, South Dakota

**Celebrant:** Father Paul T. Josten

**Casketbearers:**

Tom Schroeder, Paul Schroeder, Benjamin Bettin,  
Nathaniel Bettin, Spencer Gerdes, Bill Gerdes

**Ushers:** Dennis Gilk & Tim McMahon

**Place of Pall:**

Connie Schroeder, Terry Bettin, Dan Gerdes

**Lector:** Diane Steers

**Offertory:**

Erica Ramsey, Meredith Schroeder,  
Genevieve Bettin, Caitlin Gerdes

**Musicians:**

Jonnie Zvoneck, St. Ann's Choir, Caitlin Gerdes

**Music Selections:**

"Be Not Afraid", "On the Wings of Change"  
"Song of Farewell", "You are Mine"

**Interment:**

St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery  
Miller, South Dakota



*If you could see me now  
you wouldn't shed a tear.  
Though you may not understand  
why I'm no longer here.  
Remember my spirit.  
That is the real me.  
Because I'm still very much alive.  
I've been set free.  
Oh, if you could only see...*

*- Patsy Stambaugh Deskins*

*Maureen Gerdes, 87, of Miller, beloved mother, grandmother and great -grandmother, died peacefully Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the Miller Good Samaritan Center after a long, full and fun-filled life.*

*The sixth of seven children, Maureen Ann Wherry was born March 22, 1930 to Melvin and Mary (Rudd) Wherry at their home in rural Hand County. She grew up on a farm in the middle of the Depression and rode a horse or sleigh to rural schools, depending on the weather. She attended Orient High School one year and graduated in 1948 from Faulkton High School. She was a secretary for Faulkton attorney L.A. Melby until 1950 when she began work at what was then known as Black Hills General Hospital until 1951.*

*Maureen met Delmar Gerdes at a dance in Orient. They married November 8, 1950 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Orient, SD. They lived in California while Delmar served in the Army from 1951-1953 after which they returned to South Dakota. Maureen was a homemaker and mother to three children while living in Wecota, Timber Lake and Miller, SD. They spent 57 happy years together until Delmar's death on August 13, 2008.*

*Maureen worked as a secretary for Miller attorney James J. Hare from 1966 -1970. She served as deputy Hand County treasurer for Marvin Wilson from 1970 -1972. She was an optometrist's assistant to Dr. S. B. Wilkinson from 1973-1984. She also served as a census taker in the 1980 US Census. From 1984 until her retirement in 1988, she served as Hand County energy assistance officer for the SD Department of Social Services.*

*She supported all her children's activities, including acting as a Den Mother for Cub Scouts and being active in Music Parents. Maureen spent many lonely years working for the Democratic Party in Hand County and served St. Ann Catholic Church as a CCD teacher and Altar Society member and officer. In 1970 she was honored as a Pioneer Daughter by the parish. She held many offices in the American Legion Post #38 Auxiliary, including president. She loved her faith, being Irish, playing cards, baking and her grandchildren (not necessarily in that order).*

## *Loving <sup>Honor</sup> Memory*

*She will live on in the hearts of her children, Connie (Dr. Steve) Schroeder of Miller; Terri (Scott) Bettin of Minneapolis, MN; Dan (Nan) of Rapid City; nine grandchildren, Paul Schroeder, Erica (Eric) Ramsey, Tom Schroeder, Meredith Schroeder, Benjamin Bettin, Genevieve Bettin, Nathaniel Bettin, Caitlin Gerdes and Spencer Gerdes; one great -grandson, Will Ramsey; a sister, Donna Roth, Miller; a brother, Dennis Wherry, Abilene, Texas; a sister -in-law, Mavis Wherry, Santee, CA; and a brother -in-law, Delbert Christensen, Denver, CO; along with a host of nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors.*

*She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Delmar; three brothers: Bernard, Werner, and Celius Wherry; a sister, Eileen Christensen; several brothers and sisters -in-law.*

*Arrangements Entrusted To  
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)*