



"SEE YOU LATER, KID." - JOAN BERTSCH

Please don't cry because
I died! Smile because
I lived.
Know that I'm in a
happy place!
Know that we will
meet again!
I'll see you there!

Open House Visitation:
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Reck Funeral Home
Miller, South Dakota

Funeral Service:
10:30 a.m., Thursday, September 9, 2021
First Presbyterian Church
Miller, South Dakota

Minister: Rev. Janice Palmer

Casketbearers:
Steve Henning - Rick Oligmueller
Jerrod Fullmer - Mike Moore
Brett Stevens - Aaron Stevens

Honorary Casketbearers:
All Joan's P.E.O. sisters

Eulogist: Ron Bertsch

Ushers: Rich Waldrop
Dave & Jean Johnson

Organist: Rev. Janice Palmer

Musical Selections:
"Amazing Grace" - "Scars in Heavens"
"How Great Thou Art"

Interment:
St. Lawrence Cemetery
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted To
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net



Celebrating THE Life OF

Joan Bertsch

March 31, 1935 - September 2, 2021



Joan was born at 11:00 pm at the family home in Campbell County, south of Arta, South Dakota, on March 31, 1935, to Ernest and Bertha (Beck) Schweigerdt. The family was thankful it was before April 1st!

Joan attended rural country school (postal school) near their farm and also went to Arta for more schooling. Her father, Ernest, loved movies and when he heard of a theater for sale in 1948 in Miller, SD, Ernest, and Bertha bought the Princess Theater and made it a family business. Joan joined her sisters, Alyce and Shirley, selling popcorn and treats. In 1953, the family built the Midway Drive-In Theater in Miller.

Joan graduated from Miller High School in 1953 and then attended South Dakota State in Brookings, hoping to get into photography. After one year, she went to Minneapolis, MN to work as an apprentice with Charles-Edison Studio for three years. Joan returned to Miller in 1957 and set up a home photography studio as Joan's Studio. Joan did all kinds of photography of weddings, families, graduations, etc., and enjoyed it all.

There was a Gerald Bertsch who would attend the movie theater and always asked Bertha if she had a daughter for him. Bertha pointed to her youngest daughter, 13-year-old Beverly, the "popcorn girl". Gerald said she was too young. As time marched on, Gerald and Joan were introduced to each other and they were married, May 31, 1959, at the First Presbyterian Church in Miller, SD. Those were the years when couples went to dances, played cards, went golfing, traveled, and visited for hours.

During her lifetime, Joan served on the Board of Directors for the South Dakota Professional Photographers Association, was a member of P.E.O., served on the board of the Central Plains Arts Council and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where she was the Sunday School Superintendent for 11 years, a past trustee and session member and served on the kitchen team. Joan enjoyed golf, bowling, playing cards and Dominoes in her extra time. After 57 years as a professional photographer, Joan retired.

She is survived by two blessed sons: Shane (Amy Gard) Bertsch, two grandchildren: Zoey and Shelby Bertsch, Yankton, SD; and son, John (Josie Schladweiler) Bertsch of Roberts, WI; sister, Alyce Oligmueller, Miller; sister-in-law, Florine Henning, Miller; brother and sister-in-law: Orvin and Sharon Bertsch, Miller; many cousins and nieces and nephews; her many deeply treasured friends; and three grand-dogs: Paisley, Nash & Kinzie.

Waiting to greet her in heaven are her loving husband, Gerald (d. 1994); sisters: Shirley Moore (d. 2011), Beverly Kissner (d. 2020); parents: Ernest (d. 1995) and Bertha (d. 2002) Schweigerdt; father and mother-in-law: John (d. 1992) and Ella (d. 2002) Bertsch; brothers-in-law: Dr. Milton Henning (d. 1993); Myron Moore (d. 2006), Marvin Kissner (d. 2010) and Marvin Oligmueller (d. 2010).

Joan creatively captured many great memories and precious moments for past, present & future generations.

