



GOD'S LOVING HANDS

The beauty of the daffodils
In beds of snowy white
The patter of a gentle rain
A song of sheer delight.

The freshness of the ocean breeze
As it sweeps across the land
Can there be doubt this would exist
Without God's loving hand.

The song of a canary
With such a pleasant tune
The wondrous smell of springtime
With fields that are in bloom.

The birds that soar up in the sky
All creatures on this land
No doubt that this could ever be
Without God's loving hand.

So thank Him without measure
For His blessings showered down
That fill our lives with pleasure
'Til at last we're homeward bound.

-Albert N.Theel



In Loving Memory

Barbara Jean Slunecka

August 6, 1934 – November 25, 2023



Barbara J. Slunecka, 89, of Miller, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community in Sioux Falls.

Barbara was born on August 6, 1934, in Henderson County, NC, the second child of Jesse W and Blanche Mavis (Hardin) Bell. Her mother passed away shortly after her birth and her father was a merchant marine and later a US Navy seaman during the whole of WWII. As a result, she was raised by an extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins whom she treasured to her dying day.

In 1941 her father remarried, and she was joined by half-siblings Harold, Irene (McMinn) and Judy (Harrelson). At age 17 with the encouragement of her father and stepmother Josephine, Barbara joined the US Army where she would proudly serve until her Honorable Discharge in 1955.

While in the Army she met the love of her life, an Air Force Airman Duane J. Slunecka, while both were serving in Albuquerque, NM. They married June 24, 1955, and had one son, Fredrick, while Duane wrapped up his enlistment. Together they moved to Duane's home in north Hand County, SD where they built a farm in Alden Township in partnership with his father John, and brother Robert.

Five more children would follow to join brother Fred: Alan, James, Teresa (Schanzenbach), Leslie, and Thomas.

Barbara was passionate that her children would be well educated, and she was extremely proud that all completed post-secondary degrees. She often recounted how difficult were those first few years on the farm. The flat prairie contrasted greatly with the green Appalachian Mountains of her childhood. But through it all, she developed a great love of the land and its people and became fiercely proud to be a South Dakotan, albeit with a slight southern accent.

When not focused on her children, Barbara loved her garden and her flowers. She loved to read, complete jigsaw puzzles, and she particularly loved to bake.

With her children nearly grown, Barbara would begin a long-term employment with the Good Samaritan Home in Miller and later the Assisted Living Center. Again, her baking skills were used as she lovingly baked cookies for the facility residents. In the fall she looked forward to being a beloved hostess at the Mystic Prairie Hunting Lodge where hundreds of hunters looked forward to returning and enjoying her pheasant and carrot cake.

In 2001 Duane and Barbara moved to Miller where she would reside for over 20 years. Throughout their 61 years of marriage, Barbara was devoted to Duane until his passing in 2016. In 2022 she moved to Sioux Falls where a number of her children and grandchildren reside. Her retirement years were spent reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, and caring for her plants and gardens.

Barbara is survived by her two sisters: Irene and Judy of East Flat Rock, NC; six children: Fred (Sandy) of Sioux Falls, Alan (Jan) of Miller, Jim (Karen) of Faulkton, Teresa (David) Schanzenbach of Belle Fourche, Les (Mary) of Sioux Falls, and Tom (Robyn) of Madison Lake, MN; thirteen grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her two brothers, Jessie and Harold; and her husband, Duane.

Barbara Jean Slunecka

Funeral Mass:

11:00 a.m., Monday, December 4, 2023
St. Ann's Catholic Church
Miller, South Dakota

Celebrant: Father Paul Josten

Casketbearers:

Adam Slunecka, Matt Slunecka, Colin Slunecka, Cory Slunecka,
Jesse Schanzenbach, Aaron Schanzenbach,
John Slunecka, Wyatt Slunecka, Will Slunecka, Jack Slunecka
Sarah Schanzenbach, Dana Schuldt, & Heather Clay

Honorary Casketbearers:

Nathan, Dylan, Calvin,
Clara, Ruger, Cora, & Brody Slunecka
Carter Schanzenbach, Livia, & Indigo Schuldt
Isabell, William, & Mason Clay

Lector: Fred Slunecka

Giftbearers: Les & Mary Slunecka

Ushers: Joe & Jerome Schaefer

Music:

John Slunecka, Kathy Sebert-Bortnem,
Sarah, Jesse, & Aaron Schanzenbach,
St. Ann's Choir, & Connie Schroeder

Song Selections:

"Morning Has Broken" #635 - "On Eagle's Wings" #441
"Greensleeves" - "What Child is This" - *special music*
"One Bread, One Body" #331
"On the Wings of a Snow White Dove" - *special music*
"How Great Thou Art" #432

Burial: (*at a later date*)

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota