

LaVonne Puffer, 99, of Miller, passed away surrounded by her family on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital in Miller.

LaVonne Arline Crawford was born on her family's farm in Miner County near Roswell, SD, on February 22, 1924, to William Roy and Ragnhild (Christopherson) Crawford. She attended grade school in Miner and Lake County and Eastern High School in Madison, SD. LaVonne's family moved to Hand County in 1940 and she graduated from Ree Heights High School in 1942.

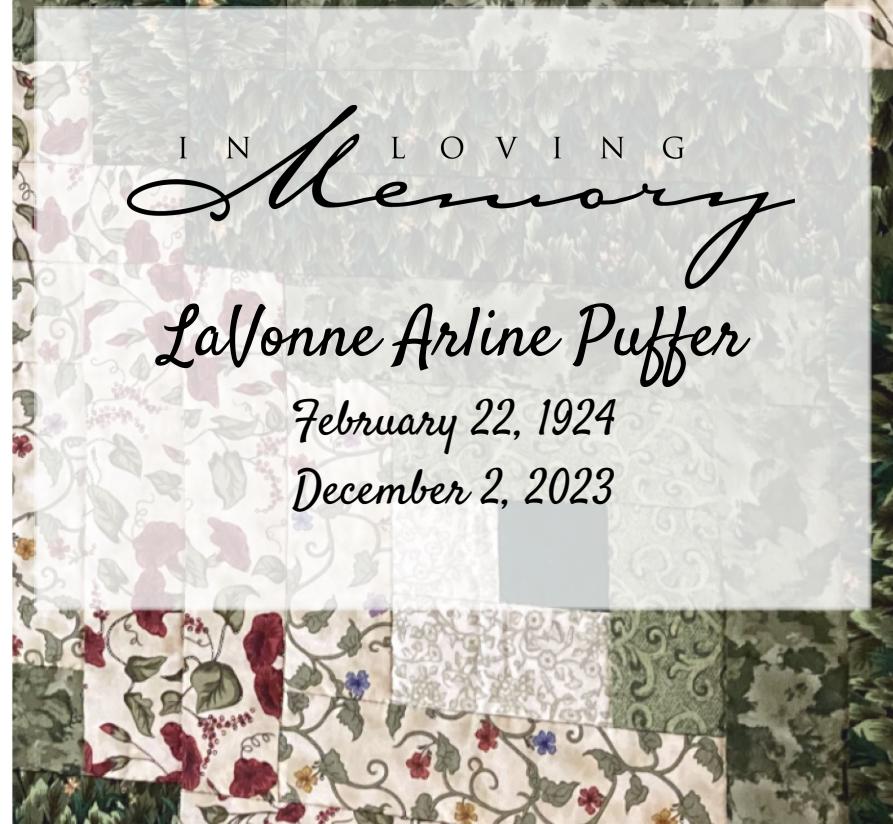
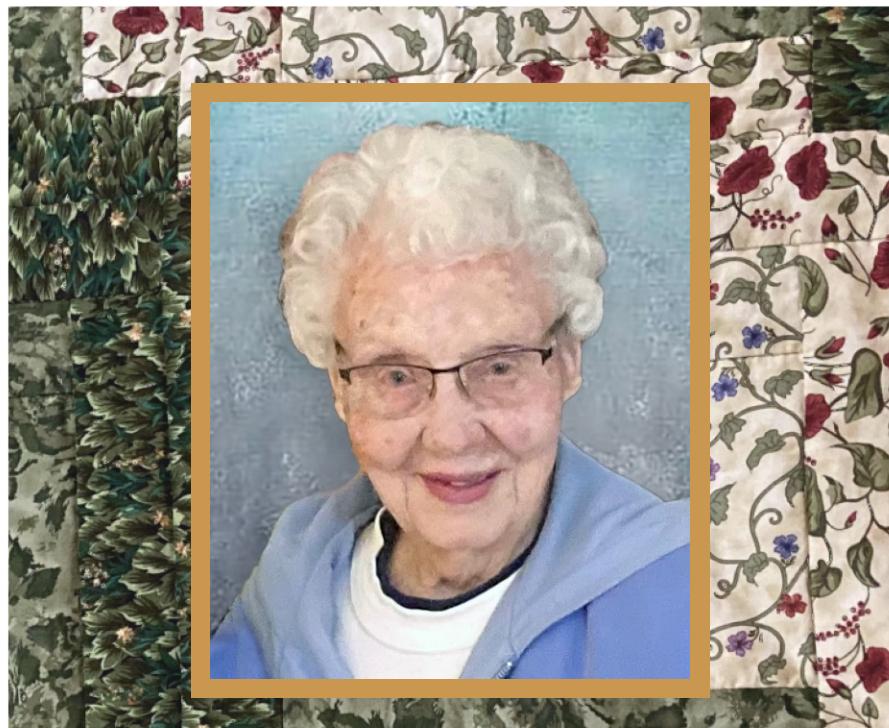
She married Bayard "Bud" Puffer on October 6, 1942, at Cedar Catholic Church in Como Township. They lived on the Puffer family ranch until moving to Miller in 1975. To this union, two daughters were born, Gae and Debra. LaVonne and Bud spent 73 loving years working together.

She belonged to the Stephan Altar Society and St. Ann's Altar Society. She worked as a teacher's aide while living on the ranch and was always Bud's co-partner in all the many ranching activities. After moving to town in 1975, she worked as an aide for 20 years at the Hand County Library. She also worked side-by-side with Bud on many finishing carpentry jobs.

LaVonne was known for being gracious and accepting. She enjoyed quilting, reading, walking with friends, and visiting with people. Her most immense love was spending time with her family.

Survivors include two daughters: Gae (John) Larson of Mankato, MN, and Deb (John) Bushfield of Miller; four grandchildren: Carma (Eric Peterson) Gorman of Austin, TX, Dana (Tania) Ruhnke of Miller; Erin (Calvin) Kindle of Miller, and Andrea (Adam) Zeller of Brookings; 12 great-grandchildren: Marit Peterson, Whyley Ruhnke, Kallie (Ethan) Fernau, Kael Ruhnke, Carter (Kaytlyn) Kindle, Jarek Kindle, Tyson Kindle, Elliot Kindle, Ramsey Zeller, Veda Zeller, Nolan Zeller, and Silas Zeller; and one great-great-grandchild, Kes LaVonne Fernau.

LaVonne was preceded in death by her parents, William Roy and Ragnhild Crawford; her husband, Bud, in 2015; her brother and sister-in-law, Arthur and Eileen Crawford; her sister, Donna Jones; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, John and Gladys Etzbauer; her son-in-law Donald Ruhnke; and her nephew, Rex Crawford.



Feelings

We feel sad,
for what we have lost.

We feel happy,
for what we have had.

We feel poor,
for the empty spaces.

We feel rich,
for we have each other.

We will cry,
for what we can't have.

We will laugh,
for our memories abound.

We will hurt,
for the love we can't give.

We will rejoice,
for the love we have received.

We will be restless,
for the lives are not whole.

We will be peaceful,
for we know it is not forever.

ANNETTE HAMILTON

Visitation: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.,

Wake Service: 7:00 p.m.,

Sunday, December 10, 2023

St. Ann's Catholic Church

Miller, South Dakota

Rosary Leader: Tom & Rosemary McGough

Memorial Mass:

10:30 a.m., Monday, December 11, 2023

St. Ann's Catholic Church

Miller, South Dakota

Celebrant: Father Paul Josten

Urnbearers: LaVonne's Grandchildren

Honorary Urnbearers:

Great Grandchildren & Great-Great Granddaughter

Placing of the Pall: Deb Bushfield & Gae Larson

Lector: Dennis Gilk

Offertory: Whyley Ruhnke, Carter Kindle,
Marit Peterson, Ramsey Zeller

Musicians: Connie Schroeder & St. Ann's Choir

Musical Selections:

"How Great Thou Art" - #432

"The Old Rugged Cross" - *insert*

"Be Not Afraid" - #439

"In the Garden" - *choir*

"Song of Farewell" - #833

"Amazing Grace" - #450

Burial:

St. Ann's Cemetery

Miller, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted To

Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota

www.familyfuneralhome.net