

To Those I Love

*When I am gone, just release me,
let me go - so I can move into my
afterglow. You mustn't tie me down
with your tears; let's be happy
that we had so many years. I gave you
my love, you can only guess
how much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love you each have
shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve for me awhile, if grieve
you must, then let your grief be comforted
with trust. It's only for a while that
we must part, so bless the memories within
your heart. And then, when you must
come this way alone, I'll greet you with
a smile and a "Welcome Home."*

Lucie, Lutz & Reck
FUNERAL HOMES
Miller, South Dakota
www.luceluzereck.com

In Memory Of

Marene P. Pratt-Pietz

August 24, 1928 - July 1, 2026



Marene Phyllis Pratt-Pietz, 97, of Miller, passed away Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society home in Miller, SD, surrounded by family.

Marene was born August 24, 1928, in Highmore, SD, to Henry and Erma (Meigs) Raske. The first several years of her life were spent with her family in Hyde County. Marene was baptized at the Congregational Church in Highmore, SD, and she was a member there until the church closed. She was a member of the Ree Heights Community Church. In 1998, she transferred her membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Miller. She attended church there until her mobility caused her to be homebound.

Marene was the oldest of six children. She went to freshman class, and then she was needed at home, so she didn't finish high school. She grew up in Hyde County and moved to Hand County in 1946. Her fondest memory was that her brothers and sisters had a band called The Half-Moon Diamond Band (her dad's cattle brand). They played at house dances, wedding dances, and barn dances. Marene played accordion and piano; the others played guitar, accordion, and drums. Sometimes their mom joined the band on the piano. At one of the dances, a shy gentleman asked Marene to dance. In 1948, the family moved to the Redmond/Sisters area in central Oregon. After living with her family in Oregon for a year, she moved back to Campbell Township after she wed. She was united in marriage to Donald Pratt in Sisters, Oregon, on October 16, 1949. To this union, five children were born. Following Donald's passing in 1992, she married Raymond Pietz on December 31, 2001; the family welcomed the 4 additional adult siblings. Donald and Marene's family farmed and ranched on the home place in Campbell Township, rural Hand County. Besides farming and cattle-raising, the family ran a haystack moving business for nearly 40 years. Marene was active and held many county and district office positions, was a charter member, and a continuing member for 47 years of the Willing Workers Hand County Extension Club, and was a member of the South Dakota Cow Belles for several years. She was a neighborhood reporter for the Miller Press for several years, submitting her column Northwest Hand News and Friendship Center News. After her husband's passing, she resided in Miller, SD. She was active in the Miller Senior Center and Friendship Center.

Marene is most known for her cake decorating business. She blessed hundreds of couples in surrounding counties with wedding cakes, anniversary cakes, and birthday cakes. Her hobbies were counted cross stitch and jigsaw puzzles. In a newspaper feature about her life, she shared her advice, "Don't be bashful about something. If you think you can do something, go do it."

Survivors include: her children and their spouses: David (Nancy) Pratt, Miller; Debra (Terry) Kopecky, Miller; Randy (Desiree) Pratt, Round Rock, Texas; Renee Cannaday, Huron; and Robin (Melvin) Dutt, Mitchell; her sister, Doris Edmunson, Bend, Oregon; sister-in-law, Sharon Raske, Yuma, Arizona; 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; 3 step-children: Eldon Pietz, Menno, Sandra Skalla, Sioux Falls, and Linda (Wes) Eidem, Brandon; and a stepdaughter in-law, Nancy Pietz, Brandon.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents; both her spouses: Donald Pratt and Raymond Pietz; siblings: Sylvia Raske, John Raske, James Raske, Sylvanus (Bud) Raske; brother-in-law, Malcolm Edmunson; son-in-law, David Cannaday; step-son, Wayne Pietz; and great-granddaughter, Mackenzie Kopecky.

Celebrating the Life of

MARENE P. PRATT-PIETZ

AUGUST 24, 1928
HIGHMORE, SOUTH DAKOTA

JULY 1, 2026
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2026
First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Allison Galbreath

EULOGIST

Madison Kopecky

SCRIPTURE READER

Kassidy Wranek

HONORARY URNBEARERS

All Marene's Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" - *insert*

"How Great Thou Art" - #77

"Borning Cry" - #2051

"On Eagle's Wings" - *insert*

ORGANIST

Collin Otteson

PRIVATE FAMILY BURIAL

Highmore Cemetery
Highmore, South Dakota

*The family warmly invites you to join them following
the service for refreshments and continued
fellowship at the church.*