

*Today is here. I will begin with a smile and
resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize.
I refuse to waste the valuable time God has given me.*

*Today has one thing in which I am
equal with others – time. All of us draw the
same salary in seconds, minutes and hours.*

*Today I will not waste time because the
minutes I wasted yesterday are
as a vanished thought.*

*Today I refuse to waste time worrying about
what might happen. I am going to spend my time
making things happen.*

*Today I am determined to study to improve
myself, for tomorrow I may be needed,
and I must not be found lacking.*

*Today I begin by doing, and not wasting my
time. In one week I will be miles beyond
the person I am today.*

*Today I will not imagine what I would
do if things were different. I will
make a success with what I have.*

*Today I will stop saying, "if I find time",
or "if I had time," for I never will "find time"
for anything. If I want time, I must make it.*

*Today I will act toward other people as though
this will be my last day on earth. I will not
wait for tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes.*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 7, 2026
First United Methodist Church
Miller, South Dakota

CLERGY

Rev. Allison Galbreath

URN CARRIER

Grady Heffner

READERS

SuAnne Meyer
Dani Bertsch
Kara Heffner

EULOGY

Lindsey Bahe

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #420
"All Things Bright and Beautiful" #147
"All Creatures of our God and King" #62
"Blest Be the Ties That Bind" #557
"Because He Lives" #364
"God Be With You" #672

PIANIST

Collin Otteson

BURIAL AT A LATER DATE

G.A.R. Cemetery
Miller, South Dakota

*The family warmly invites you to a
lunch and continued fellowship
following the service.*



In Memory Of
RITA J. ELLSWORTH
January 30, 1934
March 3, 2026



Rita J. Ellsworth, 92, of Miller, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital in Miller.

Rita Joyce Tagtow was born January 30, 1934, to George and Kathrine (Kropinske) Tagtow in Mitchell, SD. The baby of the family, she joined her sisters Lorraine and Phylis. Their mother passed away while Rita was a young girl, and her father wed Helen, and to that union Rita was blessed with a brother Roger and sister Sandy.

Rita loved to tell tales of growing up along the Missouri River and riding her father's ferry. When she was school age, she lived with her sister Lorraine and husband Everett Ellerton in Highmore. She also told stories of living with her sister Phylis in Omaha during the summers and working at a diner.

In 1949, Rita met Aaron Ellsworth and they married on a snowy day in December of 1951. They were blessed with four children, Janice, Cheryl, Mike and Steve. They raised their family on the Ellsworth Ranch north of Ree Heights where they resided until retiring to Miller in 1998.

Besides the challenging job of raising a ranch family, Rita also worked as the elementary school secretary in Highmore. It was a job that she truly enjoyed. Although working alongside Aaron on the farm and raising her children was her greatest accomplishment.

Rita loved to rebate and was known to take the grandkids to the dump in search of labels needed to fill the requirements. Every grandchild had a plate, stuffed animal, T-shirt or other random treasure from this side hustle!

Rita was strong-willed, loving, kind and generous to a fault. She was known to call around town and thank people for the job they were doing. She was very grateful for the people that took care of the Miller community.

You never left Rita's house without a kiss and a hug. She was a hugger!

Rita is survived by daughter, Janice (Doug) Purrington; sons, Mike (Susie) Ellsworth and Steve Ellsworth; son-in-law, Wayne Brock; grandchildren, Kara (Dan) and Grady Heffner, Haley (Zachary) Johnson, Kristen (Ryan) Rittel, Kaitlyn (Clinton), Kenley, Carter, Khloe, and Colsen McKee, Reis (Mikayla), AJ, and Colby Rittel, Jonathan, Bailey (Nassim), Nichole, Amia, Raegan, Evelyn, and Maliyah Deuter, Sarah, Charlie & Adeline Theophilus, Lindsey (Alex) Bode, Tripp and Ellsworth Bahe, Jamie (Demarion), Miller and Louie Mapp, Kelly (Brandon), Cooper and Tessa Bushnell, Dani (Kyle), Hal, Olan and Benny Bertsch; sister, Sandy Smith; sisters-in-law, Janice (Gene) Moncur, Barb (Gordon) Slunicka, and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Rita is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Aaron; daughter, Cheryl Brock; granddaughter, Kenzi Ellsworth; sisters, Phylis (Pete) Bell and Lorraine (Everett) Ellerton; brother, Roger Tagtow; and brother-in-law Jack Smith.



Miller, South Dakota
www.luceluzereck.com