



"Together Forever"

Joan Louise Merritt

Joan (Kesterman) Merritt was born in Sundance, WY, on March 18th, 1930 to Alfred and Georgina (Jeffries) Kesterman. She was raised in the Black Hills and graduated from Central High School in Rapid City, South Dakota. Joan was a child care provider for 10 years, but her true passion was her family. There was never a time when you called or showed up on her door step that she didn't have time for you. Her house always had freshly baked cookies and was filled of love.

Her activities included knitting numerous slippers for her family and friends, crocheting, and baking. But her favorite past time was spent taking care of her family.

Joan married Charles (Bud) Harrison on November 17th, 1951 until his death in 1959. They had three daughters, JoBeth and Julie who are still living and Kathy who passed in January of 1959.

Joan then married James E. Merritt on September 20th, 1962; they had a son, Jim and a daughter, Jackie. The two were able to spend 42 wonderful years together and are now joined together again.

Joan, 82, passed away October 18th, surrounded by her family at home.

Survivors include: One son, James J. Merritt of Rapid City; three daughters, JoBeth Turner of Spearfish, SD, Jackie McKinnon of Denver, CO, and Julie VanBuskirk of Texas; two Brothers; George Kesterman of Arizona, and Bob Kesterman of California.

Her family also includes: 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Joan is preceded in death by both husbands, Charles Harrison and James Merritt; her parents, one daughter, one brother, and two sisters.



In Loving Memory Of

Joan Merritt

1930 ~ 2012



In Loving Memory Of

Joan Louise Merritt

Born

March 18, 1930
Sundance, Wyoming

Died

October 18, 2012
Spearfish, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Monday, October 22, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

Officiating

Chaplain Randy Bradley

Musical Selections

"Might As Well Rain Until September"
"Goodbye My Friend"
"Over The Rainbow"

Honorary Pallbearers

All Family and Friends

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

Those Who Love Me

*When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for you many beautiful years.*

*I gave to you my love, You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a time that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say
"Welcome Home!"*

- Author Unknown

*The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch
at the Sturgis Vet's Club following the interment service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*