

Violetta especially enjoyed graduation parties for nieces, nephews, and neighbors. She was excited for any who were farming or ranching and those attending school or college. She enjoyed reading the newspapers and asking for updates on what was happening with the weather, cattle, and farming in the area or how someone was doing in school or with their job.

Although they never had a family of their own, Bud and Violetta were loved and included by many, never spending Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter alone, always having an invitation to join in one of the family gatherings.

In 1995 Bud and Violetta purchased a home in Clark, SD. During her life on the ranch and in Clark she enjoyed collecting “pretty” things including dishes, silverware, and glass bells. She liked raising flowers, especially tulips, and having a nice-looking green lawn. They were married almost 30 years, when Bud passed away March 18, 1999, due to health complications at the Clark Care Center. Soon after, she would sell the cattle and rent out the land, residing in Clark.

As time passed, she identified she would need to have help in the years ahead, making her own decision in 2015 to secure a room at Rotell Senior Housing, Clark, SD and sell her household contents and home. She also lived at Cedar View Assisted Living, Edgewood Assisted Living, and Jenkins Living Center in Watertown, SD where she resided until the time of her death.

Violetta is survived by her brother Marvin (Joyce) McGillivary and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews, plus many friends who were like family to her.

Preceding her in death was her husband Swen “Bud,” and their children Thomas Justin and Twyla Rose who both were born premature and died at birth. She was also preceded in death by her parents, brothers Ronald and Lester McGillivary, and sister Elsie (McGillivary) Bevers, sisters-in-law Dorothy (Ronald) McGillivary and Lois (Lester) McGillivary, and brother-in-law Dale Bevers, her nephew Todd McGillivary, and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Fred and Bertha (Severson) Farnam, Lester and Helen (Severson) Johnson, Harry and Clarice Severson, and Harold Severson.



In Loving Memory of



Violetta Lorraine (McGillivary) Severson

April 4, 1930—February 22, 2024



Celebrating the Life of Violetta Severson

Services From
United Methodist Church
Clark, South Dakota
Friday, March 1, 2024, 2:00 PM

Officiant
Pastor Rob Salmonson

Music

Pat Seefeldt - Pianist
"In the Garden" - Processional
"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
"Whispering Hope"-Recessional

Scripture

Psalm 91: 14-16 Psalm 23
Psalm 150 Proverbs 24: 3-4

Pall Bearers

Terry Severson Brad Severson Rock McGillivray
Drew McGillivray Lawrence McGillivray Wade Anderson

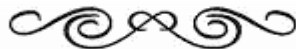
Interment

Rose Hill Cemetery
Clark, South Dakota



*Following the burial, please join the family for refreshments and
a time of fellowship back at the church.*

*The family of Violetta Severson thanks you for your presence here today,
for your thoughts, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown to them.*



SERVICES IN CARE OF
Furness Funeral Home

Clark, South Dakota
www.furnessfuneralhome.com

Violetta Severson, age 93, of Watertown, SD died at the Jenkins Living Center on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Violetta Lorraine (McGillivray) Severson was born on April 4, 1930, on the family farm 7 miles north of Henry, SD to Henry and Mary (Christner) McGillivray. She spent her childhood on the same farm with her parents, brothers, and sister where she learned about animals and farm life, spending time playing and sharing responsibilities on the farm and in the home.

Her education began at Belmont #42 Country School, where she attended 1st through 8th grade. She then moved to Watertown, SD to attend Watertown High School, living with various families and graduating in 1948. She especially enjoyed music class and playing the drums and cymbals in the marching band.

Just two weeks after graduation, Violetta began her journey in education at Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen, SD. She furthered her studies at Wesleyan Methodist College, Marion Indiana, and The University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

Violetta loved teaching and she dedicated 16 years of her life to it. Her teaching career began in Loyaltown, SD. She also taught at Brentford, Garden City, Belmont #42 north of Henry, Raymond, Bradley, and Crocker with the majority of time teaching 3rd and 4th graders.

In 1957 Violetta received a religious degree from Kentucky Mountain Bible College in Vancleve, Kentucky. She then spent four years teaching and coordinating missionary work in eastern Kentucky mountain schools.

In 1963 she married Rudy Hoffman from Canada which ended in divorce.

On October 10, 1969, Violetta married Swen "Bud" Severson at the United Methodist Church in Tyndall, SD. She loved the ranch life, working with Bud raising registered Angus cattle and Quarter horses, riding horses, working cattle, and being a homemaker. Calving time was exciting for her. She assisted in the organization of record keeping including ear tag numbers for calves.

She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Huron College in Huron, SD in 1970.

Violetta was deeply involved in her church community being a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Garden City, SD and The United Methodist Church in Clark, SD. She enjoyed singing in the choir, participating in the United Methodist Women's group and Mary Circle, serving on the administrative board and teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at both churches.

Violetta belonged to the Happy Bunch Club where she held offices and enjoyed the fellowship of other members, many of which were her neighbors. She continued to be active in this throughout the years. After moving to Watertown several of the members visited her and at times, she was able to come to Clark to see them and join in the activities.

Violetta appreciated music. As a young girl she was encouraged by her mother to take lessons to learn to play the piano. She played piano and organ, having one in her home at the ranch and in Clark, SD.

Her love of reading began as a young child and continued throughout her life. She purchased books and rented from the library, continuing reading until a few months before her death.

She was a historian, telling family stories of the past, and taking and storing photos.

Violetta was a loyal friend and family member to all. She enjoyed traveling to homes of family to visit from the time she was a child and throughout her life. She was a strong believer in God and shared her faith with others, having a Bible close by with pages marked.