

Alta Eldora (Cooper) McVay passed away peacefully with her family by her side on July 31, 2019, at Westhills Health Care in Rapid City, SD.

Alta was born in Piedmont, SD, on November 24, 1925, to Frank and Mabel (Beatty) Cooper. She grew up in Piedmont with her 2 brothers and 4 sisters.

Alta attended school in Piedmont and graduated from Piedmont High School. She attended National School of Business with a degree for "Twelve Months Senior Secretarial Course" on September 28, 1943. After graduation, she worked at Tri State Milling Company. Alta also worked for several years at Western Dakota Technical School.

Alta met the love of her life, Leonard McVay, and they married in 1947. In 2019, they celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Alta & Leonard started their family and raised 3 children in the home they made in Piedmont. Alta was a wonderful wife, mother, sister, and friend to many.

She was active in community affairs; 4-H leader, church choir, Piedmont Sewing Circle, sports fan for the local teams, among many other activities.

Alta loved to sew and taught many young people while she was their 4-H leader. Her seamstress talents were excellent. She also enjoyed bowling on a league in Rapid City for many years, once even winning a trophy for "high game"!!

Alta and Leonard could be seen dancing the night away at the Piedmont Fireman's Balls and many other venues around the hills. They also spent much time travelling (went to every state in the US), camping, and playing cards with friends and family.

Alta is survived by her husband, Leonard; children, Sheila (RT) Shaw, Don (Rita) McVay, and Janet Mattern; 7 grandchildren; Michelle Tech, Stephanie (Tony) Musilek, Jeremy (Jessica) McVay, Jamie (Laurie) McVay, Justin (Heather) McVay, Kristine (Nate) Dubie, and Amanda Mattern; 15 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-granddaughter.

Alta was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings.

Memorials have been established to the Piedmont Library and Grace United Methodist Church.

The family would like to thank the care givers at Westhill's Health Care facility for their compassionate care and kindness for Alta.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the church fellowship hall following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



*In Loving Memory*

*Alta Eldora McVay*

*November 24, 1925 ~ July 31, 2019*



*A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest,  
It broke our hearts to see you go,  
God only takes the best.  
They say that memories are golden,  
Well maybe that is true,  
But we never wanted memories,  
We only wanted you.  
Your life was love and labour,  
Your love for your family true,  
You did your best for all of us,  
We will always remember you.  
We sat beside your bedside,  
Our hearts were crushed and sore,  
We did our duty to the end,  
'Til we could do no more.  
In tears we watched you sinking,  
We watched you fade away,  
And though our hearts were breaking,  
We knew you could not stay.  
Our lips cannot speak how we loved you,  
Our hearts cannot tell what to say,  
But God only knows how we miss you,  
In our hearts today.*

***In Memory Of  
Alta Eldora McVay***

***Date of Birth***

November 24, 1925  
Piedmont, South Dakota

***Date of Death***

July 31, 2019  
Rapid City, South Dakota

***Funeral Service***

Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Piedmont, South Dakota

***Officiating***

Pastor Karl Kroger

***Musicians***

Barb Walker  
Mary Wilson

***Songs***

"In The Garden"  
"He"  
"Hymn of Promise"  
"Ridin' Down The Canyon"

***Pallbearers***

Alta's Grandchildren:  
Jeremy McVay   Jamie McVay   Justin McVay  
Michelle Tech   Stephanie Musilek   Kristine Dubie   Amanda Mattern

***Final Resting Place***

Piedmont Cemetery  
Piedmont, South Dakota