

Gladys Louise Nelson

Gladys was born February 8, 1925, at Hibbing, MN, to Warren and Lena (Schwandt) Shinabarger. Her father worked the WPA, which meant several moves for the family, but most of Gladys' years growing up were spent in the Buffalo, Bison, and Prairie City areas before her marriage to David C. Baird on June 4, 1950. They began their lives ranching in the Harding County area. Four children were born to this union, David Ray, Mike, Bill, and Donna before making their home in Sturgis in 1964.

Gladys spent her years in Sturgis working as a waitress in familiar restaurants in town before her retirement in 1989. Because socialization was such a huge part of her life, this gave her a chance to meet and visit with many people from many walks of life.

As well as socialization, Gladys' life revolved around her faith, getting her hair done, and her family. She loved being on the go and visiting where ever she went. Playing bingo was her greatest hobby along with spending time at the Senior Center. Whenever her family had an event going on, she was included. Working at the church or the Senior Center during motorcycle rallies was very important to her.

She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, the Ruth Circle, as well as the Meade County Senior Center.

Gladys Louise Nelson, 87, Sturgis, died Sunday, November 4, 2012, at Sturgis Regional Hospital surrounded by her family.

Survivors include two of her sons, David Ray Baird of Evansville, WY, and Bill Baird and his wife, Jill, of Sturgis; and her daughter, Donna Natchke and her husband, Dave, of Sturgis. She was blessed with eleven grandchildren; twenty-five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson. Survivors also include her brothers, Raymond and Diana Shinabarger, Buffalo, SD, and Floyd "Vern" Shinabarger, Sturgis; several nieces and nephews; and her best friend of over 60 years, Elizabeth Beckman, Mesa, AZ.

She was preceded in death by her son, Mike Baird; grandson, Josh Natchke; two brothers, Donald and Clarence Shinabarger; and one sister, Eleanor Lindholm.

The family wishes to extend their sincerest gratitude to the amazing staff of the Key City Retirement Home, the medical staff of Sturgis Regional and Rapid City Hospitals, and especially Georgine Hendrix for always making Gladys look so pretty.

A memorial has been established to the Meade County Senior Center. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

*The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch in the Son Shine Room in the church basement following the interment service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



*In Loving
Memory Of*

Gladys Nelson

1925 ~ 2012



I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard His call
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joys - -
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief - -
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee - -
God wanted me now: He set me free.*

In Loving Memory Of

Gladys Louise Nelson

Born

February 8, 1925
Hibbing, Minnesota

Died

November 4, 2012
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Friday, November 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church

Officiating

Pastor Will Olsen

Musical Selections

"The Old Rugged Cross"
"How Great Thou Art"
"Amazing Grace"

Pallbearers

Sean Natchke ~ Nicholas Baird ~ Philip Baird
Chris Flom ~ David Baird ~ Bill Baird

Interment

Bear Butte Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota