

With heavy hearts, our beloved Arlys Smith, age 76, of Spearfish, SD, lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on March 10, 2025. She was surrounded by her loving husband, family and friends.

Arlys was born May 6, 1948, in Gackle, ND, to Dorothy and Marlynn Isaak. She lived on a small North Dakota farm until 1956 when her father took a job at the Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota. She graduated from Lead High School in 1967. In 1976, she met and married her forever love, Clyde, while working the night shift as a police dispatcher.

Arlys was a very talented, hard-working, and driven woman. She had several unique occupations, which included dog catcher, meter maid, police dispatcher, dental office receptionist, and optical technician. She was well known and sought out by many to adjust their glasses. People drove many miles out of their way to see her and have her adjust their glasses; people would stop her in the middle of the store for her to look at their glasses.

After retirement, she put her other talents to work. She baked and cooked for hours to provide special treats for her neighbors, former co-workers, church, and family. Additionally, she was a very precise quilter; she often took apart completed work, adjusted it, and repeated it to ensure that lines and corners were perfect. Unique life experiences included being a member of the Terry Peak Courtesy Patrol; she skied at most major ski areas in the United States, crowned Sweetheart at a high school ball, Vice President of Future Homemakers of America, rode in a mule-driven wagon from Ft. Pierre to Deadwood, and drove a mule driven wagon from Sidney, NE to Deadwood.

She is preceded in death by her brother, Merlin, father, Marlynn, mother, Dorothy, and nephew, Mark. Arlys is survived by husband, Clyde, daughter Shannon Shaffer (Joe), granddaughter Karlie Shaffer, grandson Karson Shaffer, brothers Don Irion (Gladys), Larry Isaak (Phyllis), Mike (JoAnn) and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established at Spearfish United Methodist Church in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory



Arlys J. Smith

May 6, 1948 ~ March 10, 2025

To Those I Love And Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go,
I have so many things to see and so.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave 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 while that we must part.
So, bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.
Though you can't see or touch me,
I'll be near and if you listen with your heart
You'll hear all of my love
Around you soft and near.

And then when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and "Welcome home."

-J. Laird

In Loving Memory Of Arlys J. Smith

Born
May 6, 1948
Gackle, North Dakota

Died
March 10, 2025
Rapid City, South Dakota

Memorial Service
Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Spearfish United Methodist Church
Spearfish, South Dakota

Officiant
Pastor Paul Lint

Musicians
Emma McKirdy-Willsey—organist
Kevin Nakajima—soloist
“I Cross My Heart” by George Strait

Hymns
“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
“Hymn of Promise”
“It Is Well with My Soul”
“Be Thou My Vision”

