

You are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
You make me happy when skies are grey
You'll never know dear, how much I love you
Please don't take my sunshine away

The other night dear, as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke, dear, I was mistaken
And I hung my head and cried

You told me once dear, you really loved me
And no one else dear, could come between
I'll always love you and make you happy
If you will only say the same

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Vi was a special woman, one of a kind.
She was a friend to everyone she met.
Always kind, always thoughtful.

A native of Huron, Vi went to Lincoln and Wilson elementary schools, then on to Huron Junior and Senior High School, graduating in 1948. Her parents, Art & Minnie Taylor, worked hard and instilled that same work ethic in her. She worked throughout her school years as a paper girl for the Daily Plainsman, babysitting, sale barn lunch girl, and other jobs besides helping at home. In high school, she had many friends and belonged to

many clubs and organizations. She would talk about her and her friends going ice skating and how the big kids would trick the little kids into playing crack the whip.

While working at the sale barn, she met the love of her life, Milt Gilbertson. They married in September 1949. In early 1950, they moved into the home they lived for their entire lives and built their farming and ranch life. Vi continued to be active in numerous social organizations and clubs, including card clubs, social clubs, and was active in the Beadle County Extension Club including being the president in the late 1950s of both the county and state organization. She continued her volunteerism as a 4H leader for many years and then as an assistant leader when her daughter became active in 4H, for Huron Regional Medical Center, and the Huron Area Senior Center.

Other activities Vi was involved with were vocal groups, being a member of 5 different singing groups over the years, most recently with Dakota Harmony. She and Deb often had sing-a-longs, frequently making up words to the song as they went along---they both enjoyed this so much. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, where she and Deb were initiated together.

She worked at the Chef café during the early years of their marriage. Then began working part time at Randall's Cafeteria when they opened their store connected to Lewis Drug. Shortly thereafter, she became the main chef working full time, and then becoming the cafeteria manager along with the day chef. After working in the cafeteria for several years, she moved to the main grocery area as a cashier and as a customer service clerk. She continued to work as Randall's transitioned to Coborn's, retiring in 2008 with over 45 years of service to the store. No matter how hectic her work schedule, she always found time to attend Deb's school plays, music concerts, music competitions, and all of her 4H activities.

The love her life was Milt. They had 55 years together before his passing in 2004. The love they shared could be felt by everyone who knew them. Together they worked hard to build a home and family, through the bad times of hailing taking out crops and significant health issues, and the good

times of having good crops and healthy livestock. Some of the things they did together in addition to building their homestead, they had fun taking dance classes and joining Mr. & Mrs. Dance Club, having their friends to their home for dinner, and helping friends and neighbors. Vi took care of Milt through his several serious health issues through the years and was with him as he passed away.

Vi had an extraordinary relationship with her daughter Deb. As Vi told Deb several times in her last few days, she always loved Deb since she was a teeny tiny baby and did the best for her as she was able. Deb was her world, just as Vi was everything to Deb and totally her world. They traveled together throughout the US to California, Washington state, New York City, Washington DC, several times to Chicago. They enjoyed jaunting across the globe. Vi went to Europe several times both while Deb was in the Army and later, they traveled to Ireland 3 times and were planning on going again in the next year. Her travels included Australia, New Zealand, China, Moscow, and of course Greece, Italy, Turkey, Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Vi was in Texas with Deb when the COVID pandemic lockdown occurred. Because they couldn't travel back to SD in the spring, Vi decided to stay in San Antonio, and lived there almost full time since 2019. She would return to SD a couple times a year for a few weeks. She was looking forward to being in SD this summer, from June through mid-October, with so many things planned.

An awesome cook, Vi also had other hobbies and interests that made her life. She enjoyed tole painting, card making, quilting, embroidery and cross stitch, and would try any type of handwork with her friends. She made cards for several people, many of you received her cards. She made over 300 cards for Deb's doctoral program peers to celebrate holidays and special events for each student & instructor during the three years. Many of Deb's peers told her they still had Vi's cards and continue to cherish them.

Many of you have known Vi for years, some of you knew her for a shorter time. She always had a beautiful smile for everyone; she always had time for anyone who needed an ear to listen; she always put other people first. She was a kind, gentle, Godly woman. She was loved by so many, just as she loved so many.

As Deb was preparing this eulogy, so many wonderful thoughts of her mom popped up. Most of us have experienced the loss of a loved one and it is never easy to accept they are gone, no matter how we think we are prepared. Deb wants to share her appreciation for your attendance today, and also for all of the heartfelt, wonderful comments and thoughts you shared with her about her beautiful mother. We know that Vi is now in God's hands and she has joined her family and friends who have proceeded her in death. We know she is watching over Deb and is waiting for her to join the family.