

Charlene May Heilman



Charlene was born June 9, 1925, at her grandparent's homestead to Otis and Gladys (Porter) Palmer, one of 4 children. Charlene attended and graduated from Miller in 1943. She then obtained a temporary two-year teaching certificate and taught in a rural school close to home.

Charlene married her life-long best friend, Elmer Heilman, on October 13, 1944. Together they had 4 children; Pam, Joan, Mike, and Becky. Elmer and Charlene ran many businesses; The Highway Store on Hwy 45 between Miller and Gann Valley; a television and appliance store and a drive-in called "Whoa Boy" both in McIntosh. In 1962, the family moved to Custer and continued the television and electronic business. While in Custer Charlene also worked at various locations; local grocery store, Dr. Calvin, Custer Weekly, and retired from the United States Forest Service. In 1973, tragedy hit when their daughter, Joan, and her husband, Carl Peterson, were killed in a house fire. Their only child, Carla, survived the fire and came to live with her grandparents and was raised as their own. In 1992, Elmer and Charlene retired and moved to Rapid City. They spent many winters in Arizona and camping with the Paha Sapa Good Sam Campers during the summer. Charlene also volunteered at Regional Hospital in the surgical waiting room.

Charlene was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and active with the Presbyterian Women's Groups. She was also a life-long member of the Republican Party and has been involved with the local party and served as State Central Committee Women of Corson County GOP. She was also a 60 plus year member of the order of Eastern Star and served and advanced to Worthy Matron. She supported her daughters, Becky and Carla, while they were in Jobs Daughters and served as Bethel Guardian of Bethel #23 of Custer. She also has been a member of several bible studies, REACT, Custer Gold Discovery Days committee, Directed the pageant, "Paha Sapa", NARFE, and the Hand, Corson, Custer, Pennington, and Meade County Republican Women.

Charlene May Heilman, 90, of Sturgis, passed away on May 27, 2016.

Survivors include daughter, Pam and Jerry Gardner of Walla Walla, WA; son, Mike Heilman of Sturgis, SD; daughter, Becky and David Sutterfield of Pahrump, NV; granddaughter, Carla and Todd Knutson of Spearfish, SD; sister, Gale and Bill Ogilvie of Tonasket, WA; 8 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; 6 step-great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and after 90 years, many, many friends.

Charlene was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Heilman; parents, Otis & Gladys Palmer; daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Carl Peterson, Jr; brothers and sisters-in-law, John & Arlen Palmer and Keith and Doris Palmer; and son-in-law, Howard Sutterfield.

Memorials have been established to the Presbyterian Church Women of Sturgis, SD and Children's Home Society.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com



In Loving Memory Of



Charlene May Heilman

1925 ~ 2016

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Erskine Club room of First Presbyterian Church. We thank you for your presence and condolences

When God Created Mothers...

When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 180 movable parts...all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that disappears when she stands up, a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair and six pair of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pair of hands...no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pair of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the Angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the one here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and says, 'I understand and I love you' without as much as muttering a word."

"Lord," said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, "Come to bed. Tomorrow..."

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," She pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there."

Erma Bombeck

In Loving Memory Of Charlene May Heilman

Born

June, 9, 1925
Miller, South Dakota

Died

May 27, 2016
Spearfish, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating ~ Rev. Denzel Nonhof

Pianist ~ Roxie Chowen

Musical Selections

"The Old Rugged Cross" pg. 260
"Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" – Amelia Knutson
"Nearer, My God, To Thee"

Honorary Urnbearers

Elliott Heilman ~ Travis Sutterfield ~ Seth Sutterfield
John Palmer, Jr. ~ Jim Palmer ~ Bob Palmer
Craig Heilman ~ Doug Heilman

Inurnment

Custer City Cemetery, Custer, South Dakota

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; Thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head
with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord forever.