

*In Loving Memory Of*  
**Thomas Joseph McDermott**

*Born*

February 8, 1923  
Mud Butte, South Dakota

*Died*

May 13, 2024  
Apache Junction, Arizona

**Betty Jean McDermott**

*Born*

July 9, 1929  
Newell, South Dakota

*Died*

August 5, 2023  
Apache Junction, Arizona

*Celebration of Life*

Friday, July 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*Officiants*

Father Timothy Castor   Pastor Jenene Earl  
Irish Blessing: Murphy McDermott Meyer

*Musicians*

Soloist: Avery Colfelt  
Pianist & Cantor: Dr. Barry Furze

*Musical Selections*

“The Old Rugged Cross”   “How Great Thou Art”  
“On Eagles Wings”   “Song of Farewell”  
“When Irish Eyes are Smiling”

*Urnbearers*

Hudson Colfelt  
Jack Goeringer

*Honorary Urnbearers*

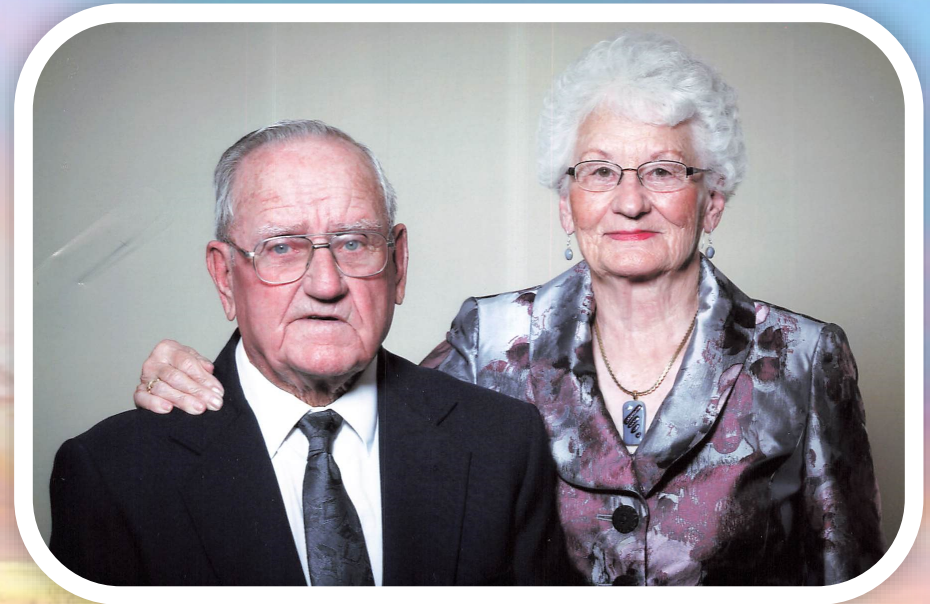
The Family

*Final Resting Place*

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at  
Sturgis United Methodist Church, following the committal.  
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*

*In Loving Memory Of*



**Thomas J. McDermott**

**February 8, 1923**

**May 13, 2024**

**Betty Jean McDermott**

**July 9, 1929**

**August 5, 2023**

### *Betty Jean McDermott*

Betty Jean (Heston) McDermott, who was 94 years old, passed away while surrounded by family at the Brookside Assisted Living, Apache Junction, AZ on August 5, 2023. She will be missed.

Betty was born in the Newell Hospital on July 9, 1929, to Willis “Cody” Heston and Clara (Walter) Heston. She was the youngest of six (6) siblings. Betty was brought home to the Ranch that Cody & Clara Homesteaded for years.

Betty enjoyed living on the plains of western South Dakota. She helped her mother with gardening, canning vegetables and fruit for the winter. Her mother taught her how to sew and Betty used that talent to make most of her clothes. She was an avid reader and enjoyed school. Many times, Betty rode her bicycle a mile and a half to the Heston School where she attended grades 1-8.

Betty Jean went to high school at Newell and Sturgis High Schools. She was a member of band playing the bells and enjoyed Home Economics. Betty made lifelong friends in high school. The summer after high school she went to Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, SD to gain her Teaching certificate. In the fall, she taught at Trail Creek School in Meade County.

Betty loved going to country dances! This is where shy Betty met the wild IRISHMAN from Mud Butte, Tom McDermont. They danced up a storm and married on St. Patrick’s Day 1947. To this union, four children were born, Velvalie, Jack, Mick and Jerry. She also worked outside of the home as a bookkeeper for Peter Keywit, Johnson Trucking, Production Credit, and Fort Meade Accounting. Betty had her hands full!

Betty attended the Sturgis Methodist Church and participated in many activities. She especially liked working at the Mother-Daughter Banquets each year.

Betty Jean’s survivors include her husband of seventy-seven years, Tom McDermott; and daughter, Velvalie (Bill) Goeringer; sons, Mick McDermott, and Jerry (Deborah) McDermott; and daughter-in-law, Connie McDermott Hawley. Additionally, eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren were left behind.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cody & Clara Heston, and her five siblings, Alfred Heston, Margorie Orwick, Lloyd Heston, Gordon Heston, and Joesphine Jones. Additionally, she was preceded in death by her son, Jack McDermott and granddaughter, Penny Bristol.

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

### *Thomas Joseph McDermott*

Thomas Joseph McDermott, 101 years old, passed away May 13, 2024 at Brookdale Assisted Living, Apache Junction, AZ, where he would say in the dining room every morning, “They have the best breakfast on this side of Heaven!”. He was Born at Mud Butte, SD, to Jack and Bridgette (Fox) McDermott. Tommie was the ninth of eleven children. They were raised on Homestead Act land in Meade County. His family helped build the first Catholic Church in the area. Tommie was a devout Catholic in the later years of his life. Every day at 3 p.m. he would pray, read his Bible and Prayer Book.

Tommie had many jobs throughout his life. One of his jobs was herding sheep for his dad, something he would do throughout his lifetime. He owned the “old” Mud Butte Store and worked as a shepherd at the McDermott Ranch, Heston Ranch, and other ranches in the area. Tom was also a bus driver, bartender, equipment operator for the County, maintaining country roads and custodian at Sturgis Brown High School retiring in 1985.

Tom and Betty became snow birds traveling to TX and AZ camping. They loved the desert and settled in Mesa, AZ, at Valley Del Aro and enjoyed the Superstition Mountains. Betty enjoyed all sorts of activities while Tom golfed with his best friend, Bob Daane. Tom played his last round of golf with his son-in-law, Bill, grandson Peter, and great grandson Jack at the Sturgis Golf Course when he was 94 years old. In Tom’s last days, he still remembered the fun they had playing together.

Tommie was a great socializer and storyteller. He claimed to have a “whisp of truth” to all his stories. Tom lived an adventurous and colorful life. He leaves behind daughter, Velvalie (Bill), Gold Canyon, AZ; and sons, Mick McDermott, CO/AZ, Jerry McDermott (Deborah), Gold Canyon, AZ; and daughter-in-law, Connie McDermott Hawley, Spearfish, SD.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; son, Jack McDermott; granddaughter, Penny Bristol, and ten siblings; John, Owen, Mary, Margaret, Rose, Pearce, Emmet, Eddie, Agnes, Baby Turnes, as well as his parents, John and Bridgette McDermott.

Tom and Betty’s family wish to “Thank” their former residences caregivers for their great loving care while they lived at Aspen Grove Assisted Living, Sturgis, SD and most recently Brookdale Assisted Living in Apache Junction AZ.

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