

Freda Mae Wilson was born January 18, 1929, at the home of her great Aunt Betty and Jess King to Sam and Ada Simons. She grew up in Marcus, SD, where she and her six siblings attended Barada School, often riding horseback or in a wagon through the snow. The happy Simon's home was filled with laughter, and certainly some disagreements with seven siblings joining the family ("like dominos" she always said).

Freda came to Sturgis to attend high school and lived with her beloved grandmother Clara Burditt Ensor. Her older brother Vern joined her, and several other country boys followed as well as Walter (her protector) and Clara Beth. Grandma Ensor went from living alone and cooking for one to a home filled with hungry teenagers so Freda took over some of the grocery shopping and most of the cooking. She was always disappointed that she could not be more involved with school activities and later made sure that her two daughters could and did join as many clubs as they wanted.

After high school graduation, on June 1, 1947, she married a handsome WWII veteran who had returned to land in Plainview he had his father buy with money he regularly sent home. Emerson and Freda worked this land with Freda, a true partner in the home and the field. She was active in Plainview Ladies' Aid and helped with Plainview Vacation Bible School.

In 1967 she moved to Sturgis so her daughters could attend high school. She got a job working for the Meade County school system in the cafeteria where she worked until retirement in 1988 after 24 years. She was known as the "lunch lady" and was often greeted by the hundreds of students at check out stands, on the street at community affairs. The cousins said seeing "Aunt Freda's" face every day in the lunch line gave them some status with the other students.

Freda was an avid dancer, water-skier, golfer, bowler, and snow skier, and belonged to several bridge clubs and would often fill the week with her sisters and other friends. In 1967, Freda and Em built a home in Boulder Canyon. Freda retired so could increase her involvement with golf.

Freda and Emerson moved to Vanocker Canyon in 1996 where she continued her daily walks and became known as the "Vanocker Walker". She passed at the Sturgis Hospital on June 11, 2026, at the age of 97 after 21 years of living by herself before going into Dolan Senior Living in August 2026.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda Grenz, Sturgis and Jennifer Silbaugh and son-in-law Mike, New Braunfels, TX; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Guy Edwards; and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. Her parents; brothers, Vern, Walt, and Wayne; sisters, Clara Beth Peterson, Gladys Edwards, and Kay Ingalls; infant brother and son-in-law, Willard Grenz preceded her in death.



In Loving Memory

Freda Mae Wilson

January 18, 1929 ~ June 11, 2026



Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil.

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff.
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

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

In Loving Memory

Freda Mae Wilson

BORN

January 18, 1929
Sturgis, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY

June 11, 2026
Sturgis, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE

June 15, 2026 - 1:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Harold Delbridge

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

Hymn Leader: Betty Nettleton
“Amazing Grace”
“I’ll Fly Away”
“Mansion Over The Hilltop”

ACCOMPANIST

Brenda Schaeffer

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Freda’s family and friends

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Black Hills National Cemetery

The family invites you to join them for a time of food
and fellowship immediately following the service in
the church basement.