



### **Your Mother**

Although you cannot hear her voice  
Or see her smile no more,  
Your mother walks beside you still  
Just as she did before.  
She listens to your stories and  
Wipes away your tears;  
She wraps her arms around you  
And she understands your fears.  
  
It's just she isn't visible  
To see with human eye,  
But talk to her in silence and  
Her spirit will reply.  
You'll feel the love she has for you-  
You'll hear her in your heart;  
She's left her human body but  
Your souls will never part.

*In Loving Memory of*

# **Elnita Mae Rank**

*January 14, 1937 ~ July 28, 2021*

### **Wake Services**

*St. Joseph's Catholic Hall, Fort Thompson, SD  
Sunday, August 1, 2021  
7:00 p.m.*

### **Funeral Service**

*St. Joseph's Catholic Hall, Fort Thompson, SD  
Monday, August 2, 2021  
1:00 p.m.*

### **Officiating**

*Father David Hussey  
Butch Felix  
Sister Charles Palm*

### **Casketbearers**

*Mel Rank Jr.  
Kyle Campbell  
John Estes III  
Calvin Hawk  
Troy Volesky  
Jacelyn Estes  
Pat Koster Jr.  
Kyle Hawk  
Darnell Hawk  
JC Wayne Hawk  
Chevy Rank*

*Dwight Rank  
Joshua Valandra  
Andrew Lepkowski  
Brent Volesky  
Christopher Estes  
Jay Will  
Quill Hawk  
Kirk Hawk Jr.  
Jayson Hawk  
Michael Hawk  
Kyle Voice*

### **Honorary Bearers**

*Former tribal leaders she served with throughout her life  
Her many relatives and friends*

### **Interment**

*Conkicaska Presbyterian Cemetery, Fort Thompson, SD*

**Arrangements By:** *Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD*

Elnita Mae Rank was born on January 14, 1937, in Fort Thompson, South Dakota to Leon Kirkie Sr. and Laura Mae Shoots the Enemy/Harrison Kirkie. She passed away in the comfort of her own home, on July 28, 2021 at the tender age of 84, surrounded in love by her tiwahe. She grew up in Bad Nation, Fort Thompson, and Mitchell. She graduated from Mitchell High School and attained a vocational certificate as an administrative assistant.

Elnita's traditional name is Oyate Wacin Yapi Win, which translates to Woman Called Upon to Help the People. She embraced this name upon entering a life of public service, tribal leadership and owning a business. She proudly served as Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Chair for a tenure and believed strongly in advocating for tribal rights. Elnita held a prominent leadership role with United Sioux Tribes fighting for the rights of tribes on a national platform. Throughout her life, she worked in various roles of tribal government and enjoyed representing individuals as a tribal paralegal. She and her husband owned and operated Rank's Service for several years, serving the community and teaching their family the value of service. By way of the station, her family grew to include a number of hunka children and relatives, honoring her with a second traditional name of Ina Wicayuonihanpi, Mother to all.

Elnita's greatest enjoyment was her large tiospaye. She traveled many miles to attend children's and grandchildren's activities and especially academic graduations. She loved her old country music and would often reminisce about dancing with her husband. She enjoyed playing cards, reading books, working in her yard planting trees and flowers, her crossword puzzles, and Sudoku. Each morning at coffee time, with her baby brother, Melby, and her best friend, Judy, they would solve tribal, national, and world challenges while anticipating what was arriving in their daily happy meal and awaiting the start of The Young and Restless.

Honored to carry on her legacy and memory are her children; daughters-Robyn Hawk of Lodgepole, MT, Ronda Hawk, Roxie Estes, Kristal Hawk, Melva Rank, and Melita "Chepa" Rank (Patrick Engels) of Fort Thompson, SD, and sons-Kirk "Bud" Hawk of Belle Plaine, MN, and Mel Rank and Larry Rank of Fort Thompson, SD; hunka children; John (Shannon) Daly of Pukwana, SD and Julie Daly of Castle Rock, CO; her siblings Richard (Doris) Kirkie and Melby Kirkie of Fort Thompson, SD; and 54 grandchildren, 113 great grandchildren, and 23 great-great grandchildren.

Embracing her in love as she enters her spiritual home are her husband, Melvin, a WWII veteran; parents, Leon and Laura, her daughters-Karen Will, Linda Volesky, Darcy Rank and her sons-Marty Rank and Jay Hawk; her grandchildren; Shiloh Rank, Cody Wade, Tyler St. John, and Liam Rank and great grandson Xavier; her special sister in law and best friend-Judy Kirkie; and siblings Rita Marlys Kirkie, Ron Kirkie, Menia Mann, Leon Kirkie Jr., Florence Marquez, Mavis Kirkie, Kristal Kirkie, and Ivy Head.

She left this world loving us but ready to join those she missed dearly. We find comfort in knowing she is having coffee, playing cards, and dancing with Dad. Journey well, Mother. Your physical presence will be missed by us all.

## *In Loving Memory Of*



## **Elnita Mae Rank**

**Oyate Wacin Yapi Win**

**Ina Wicayuonihanpi**

January 14, 1937 ~ July 28, 2021