

Hazel Erika Kessler

Hazel Erika Kessler, 91, of Buffalo, WY, left this world to meet her Savior May 24, 2015, at the Johnson County Healthcare center.

Hazel was born January 27, 1924, in Fruitdale, SD, to Oscar A. and Selma E. Balo. She and her twelve siblings were raised in the Spearfish area where she completed her education in the eleventh grade. In 1942, she married Kenneth Edwards and soon began her cosmetology career, working for Nick Taylor in Spearfish for a short time, then opening her own salon in Lead.

Hazel married Everett "Glen" Kessler August 19, 1951, and he became a cosmetologist as well. They operated their salons in Spearfish and also began the board and care business, both of which they continued for 15 years in their home in Spearfish and another 15 years in their home in Story, WY, retiring when they were both 74 years old. In Spearfish, they also provided foster care for children and mentoring for juvenile delinquents who had paid their debt to society and needed to learn how to work and care for themselves in the world. In both communities, they were hairdressers in the nearby nursing homes and veteran's home.

Throughout her life, Hazel pursued her interests with unrelenting energy, enthusiasm, and joy. These included bowling – she was a city champion in Spearfish; horseback riding which she learned to love on the ranch as a child – she especially liked to enter the local races which she often won; hunting – she was an expert hunter having much success with both large and small game as well as birds; painting – taking classes and producing many paintings in oil, acrylic, pastel, and water color which she shared with family members; playing the organ and piano to entertain the residents and family she cared for and later at Grace Chapel; sewing – making clothing for her family, quilts, and many other useful items; gardening – tending flower gardens everywhere she lived and often creating flower arrangements for the altar at Grace Chapel.

Hazel found time to become involved in her communities in many capacities such as teaching Sunday School, volunteering as an Emergency Medical Technician and as an adult literacy tutor, as a Foster Grandparent in the school and with Mothers of Preschoolers, and singing with the "Sheridanaires" group. She took advantage of opportunities to learn and grow as they arose including completion of the Dale Carnegie Course which she took with her son, Royce, the Toastmistress organization, studying with various artists, even trying her hand at sculpting and ceramics.

Hazel taught her children that they must have the courage to pursue their passions, to live life with enthusiasm, and to never say the word "can't." She loved to play games, both indoors and outdoors, with her family. She would gracefully "beat the socks off" of us all and inspire us to keep trying. The most important gift Hazel shared was her never-ending laughter. Anyone who ever met her knew her joy.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers; six sisters; and her daughter, Helen Patricia Jacobs.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Glen Kessler of Buffalo; one son, Royce Kessler of Colorado Springs, CO; two daughters, Dalreen Kessler of Buffalo and Melonie Arzy of Sheridan; eight grandchildren, Shane Oliphant, Ann-erika Whitebird, Raina Cain, Aubrey Kessler, Charles Kessler, Ethan Kessler, Erika Franks, and TC Arzy; as well as six great-grandchildren.

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

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Church fellowship hall immediately following the service.

In Loving Memory Of



Hazel Erika Kessler

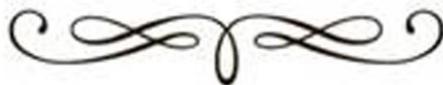
1924 ~ 2015

*When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your
Eyes filled with tears for me.
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say,
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you.
And each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.*



Psalms 23: 1-6

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 for ever.



In Loving Memory Of

Hazel Erika Kessler



Born

January 27, 1924
Fruitdale, South Dakota

Died

May 24, 2015
Buffalo, Wyoming

Memorial Service

Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.
Grace Chapel, Story, Wyoming

Officiating

Pastor William Dill

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace" "Jesus Loves Me"
"The Old Rugged Cross" "In The Garden"

Soloist ~ Steve Small

Pianist ~ Jan Dill

Interment

Whitewood Cemetery
Whitewood, South Dakota