

Footprints

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints.

And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."





Liz was born July 12, 1947, to Wesley and Eileen (Farley) on a farm near Alcester, South Dakota. She graduated in 1965 from Alcester High School. Liz married John Otten on March 28, 1969. They lived in Texas and Oklahoma while John served in the US Army before making their home in Hawarden, Iowa in 1971. She worked at various jobs around the area, mostly in the service industry. She worked the last 20 plus years at Waddy's Other Bar in Hawarden before retiring in 2025.

Liz will always be remembered for her noon specials at the Other Bar and her love for her family.

She was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxilliary and the Hawarden United Methodist Church. Liz loved spending time watching her family in various activities, camping with her family, and

gaming. She passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the Hawarden Regional Healthcare Hospital at the age of 78.

Survivors include her husband, John; daughters, Jaylene Topete of Hawarden and Sheila Otten of Hawarden; sons, Michael (Brandi Feddersen) Otten of Beresford, South Dakota and Mark (Stacy) Otten of Bassett, Nebraska; grandchildren, Jared, Joshua, Jessica (Miguel) Eric, Kielee (Wyatt), AJ, Kol, Dru, and Ali; and great-grandchildren, Landyn, Linkyn, Gianna, Brielle, and Blair; her brother, Wesley (Shirley) Arends, Jr. of Colorado; brothers-in-law, Jack Backer of Monroe, South Dakota, Dick Fleischner of Jefferson, South Dakota, and Dick (Jeanette) Otten of Hawarden; and sister-in-law, Elaine Phipps of Marysville, Ohio.

Liz was preceded in death by her parents, Wesley and Eileen Arends; parents-in-law, David and Leona Otten; sisters, Patricia Arends, Jackie Huizinga, Marlene Backer, and Bonnie Fleischner; brothers, an infant brother and Gary Arends; and a brother-in-law, Wayne Phipps.

In Loving Memory Of
Elizabeth Marie Otten

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2026
Hawarden Community Center
Hawarden, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Pastor Carolyn Salberg

SOLOIST

Tori Mendez

"Wind Beneath My Wings"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace" Alan Jackson

"Jealous Of The Angels" Donna Taggart

"When I Get Where I'm Going" Brad Paisley

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Jessica Grima ~ Kielee Meester

Eric Topete ~ Ali Otten

CASKET BEARERS

Jared Otten ~ Joshua Otten

Kol Otten ~ AJ Otten

Dru Otten ~ Aden Waterman

INTERMENT 2:30 p.m.

Beresford City Cemetery

Beresford, South Dakota

*Please join Liz's family for lunch and fellowship
following the funeral service.*