

In Loving Memory

Virginia Caroline (Clark) Gerbracht, 75, Faith, was peacefully called home into the loving arms of Jesus on January 24, 2026, after enduring cancer with grace and faith. She was born on December 8, 1950, to Benjamin E. and Hope M. (Van Cleave) Clark in Sturgis, SD, the baby girl in the family, with three older brothers. Virginia attended Brushy grade school, a one-room schoolhouse with eight grades and one teacher in rural Perkins County. In her high school years, she was the Sweetheart Queen at the Valentine's Ball and also the Homecoming Queen her senior year. She graduated from Bison High School in 1970.

Virginia met up with the love of her life, Walter G. Gerbracht, "again" shortly after his tour in Vietnam. After she graduated from high school, they married on June 26, 1970, in Bison, SD. They began their lives in Prairie City, SD, living in a 10X60 mobile home, then moved to Hettinger, ND, shortly thereafter. In 1972, they purchased the Hans Thingstead Ranch near Maurine, where they welcomed three bundles of joy into the world. They were all blessed to live the ranch/farm life for the next 15 years. In the fall of 1987, they moved into Faith when their children started high school.

Virginia was a woman of remarkable strength who wore many hats throughout her life, taking on many jobs, including the Hettinger Nursing Home and Rexall Drug Store, Bookkeeping for several businesses, seasonal work at Faith Post Office, Dental Assistant, Attendant for Faith Area Memorial Chapel for 13 years, Mary Kay Beauty Consultant & Faith School Cheerleading advisor. In 2007, she went to cosmetology school at Headlines Academy and taught there as well. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post in Faith, SD, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary.

In Life, she met every challenge with determination, grace, and a sharp sense of humor. She was a classy lady in every sense, who believed in always putting her best self forward. She never left the house without her lipstick on and signature smile, and carried herself with elegance and confidence. As a wife to a Vietnam Veteran and rancher, she was strong-willed and spirited, never afraid to speak her mind. Virginia and Walt shared a lively relationship filled with playful arguments, laughter, and love. Some of her favorite stories were the ones that ended with her clever ways of getting the upper hand, always with a twinkle in her eye. One, including a story about driving the ranch pickup, chasing raccoons in the dark with the headlights on, with Walt running ahead of the pickup!

Her warmth, laughter, strength, love, and kindness left a lasting impression on everyone and will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Grateful for sharing Virginia's life are her husband of 55 years, Walter, son Quentin (Sunshine) Gerbracht, daughter, Tonya Collins (Brad Mackaben), and son Ace (Christie) Gerbracht; nine grandchildren: Kayla (Cameron) Koch, Dalton (Shelby) Gerbracht, Daniel (Payton) Gerbracht, Randy (Terysha) Collins, Dillon Collins, Ty Collins, Ashtin Gerbracht, Tristin Gerbracht, and Rylee Hurtig; seven great-grandchildren: Paisley, Case, Kopper and Huck Koch, Ryder Gerbracht, Lawrence and Laytyn Collins, and mother-in-law Margaret Gerbracht.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin and Hope Clark; her father-in-law, George Gerbracht; and her brothers, Lee Clark, Carl Clark, and Timothy Clark.

Thank you for your presence and condolences.



Virginia C. Gerbracht
December 8, 1950 ~ January 24, 2026

You Are Always There

When ever things are going wrong,
You are always there to make it right.
When ever things are in the darkness,
You are always there to show me the light.
Whenever things are feeling closed-in,
You are always there to open them.

When ever I see no good,
You are always there to show me the good.
When ever I am sad and depressed
You are always there to pick me up.
When ever my life feels empty,
You are always there to make it full.
When ever I need a hug, a kiss, a kind word,
You are always there with open loving arms.
When ever I need anything,
You are always there.

I know no matter what, you are always there
and you always will be.
You are my light at the end of the tunnel
And my rainbow at the end of
every storm.

I Love You , Mom!
Love Always,
Your daughter,
Tonya Lalynn Collins
1996 Mother's Day



In Loving Memory Virginia Caroline Gerbracht

Born

December 8, 1950
Sturgis, South Dakota

Passed Away

January 24, 2026
Bison, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 1:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Clay Conroy

Musical Selections

“The Old Rugged Cross”
“Amazing Grace”

Organist

Brenda Schaffer

Honorary Pallbearers

All grandchildren and great grandchildren