

In Loving Memory



Conda "Connie" J. Chandler
June 1, 1937– February 17, 2026

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.

Psalms 23

Conda (Connie) June Chandler was born June 1, 1937 in Mitchell, South Dakota to Lester and Pauline Rankin. She was the first of 3 daughters born to the couple. Her sister's Florice and Jeanette coming 4 and 8 years later.

Connie's parents were farmers for many years. She liked to help her dad on the farm. When she was little, she said he would have her hold the cow's tails while he milked them.

The family was poor in the early days. Connie remembered her mother cooking and feeding her father and the children first without leaving any for herself. Connie herself did not have a crib but grandma's laundry basket was given and Connie kept it her whole life.

Farming was tough and the family moved around a lot. Connie counted she had moved 34 times in her life, 10 times during her school years attending in both South Dakota and Minnesota. Connie graduated from Mounds View High School in Minnesota in 1956.

After high school graduation, Connie moved to California and stayed with her Aunt Cora Mae. In California she met and married Dale Strang and welcomed 2 daughters, Bonnie and Kathleen. Later she remarried Rick Lugiai, and welcomed another daughter Susan.

Connie had a long career with the Burbank School District. For many years she ran the kitchen for Walt Disney Elementary School, later moving into child care after realizing how much she enjoyed working with children.

Child care continued even after relocating with husband Virgil Chandler to Rapid City, South Dakota. Connie was happy with Virgil, together they bought a mobile home that she lived in for the next 30 years until she passed away.

She is remembered by many parents and children she cared for to this day, always seeing someone she knew when out and about.

Connie will be deeply missed and always remembered.

