

University of South Dakota. Phyllis never set a fracture, delivered a baby, nor sutured a laceration, but she always prioritized the community's medical care, advocating for the improvement of all things surrounding the actual patient treatment.

Phyllis provided a warm home environment, attending to the needs of her growing family while supporting many community activities. Remembering her childhood love of scouting, she delighted in serving both Boy and Girl Scouts in leadership positions. She actively participated in fundraising efforts to build the Tyndall community pool, transitioning the town away from the swimming pond. Dedicated women and men creatively launched a series of style shows showcasing fashion, food, and entertainment for this purpose. Through her PEO affiliation, she developed cherished friendships with many women.

A humble Dakota prairie foundation shaped her spirit of humility and service, and fostered a willingness to pursue paths of opportunity through commitment and hard work. Her disposition was grounded by the magnificent people who touched her life throughout her nearly ten decades. She imparted those values to her children and reinforced them in her community.

Phyllis' home was her castle, and her family sincerely appreciates the compassionate care providers who allowed her to remain there through her final years. Phyllis had an incredible life. She stated that, given the opportunity, she would have crafted her story just the way it unfolded. Her life testifies to transcendent purpose, and exemplifies the power of community bonds.

Phyllis rejoins her husband in eternal blessedness after 15 years apart. She is survived by 7 children and 11 grandchildren, who aspire to live up to her legacy of humility, devotion and service.



In Loving Memory

Phyllis Foley

October 20, 1926 — May 14, 2025

Goglin Funeral Homes are honored to serve the family and friends of Phyllis Foley.



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Phyllis Katherine Gross Foley was born October 20, 1926 on the prairie near Carpenter, SD where she, her parents and two older brothers, William and Donald, resided. A fire ignited by a Christmas holiday candle resulted in the complete loss of their farmhouse with all possessions. So, during the Great Depression, the family restarted their lives in Huron, SD. There, Phyllis spent the rest of her childhood, graduating in the Class of 1944.

Phyllis worked throughout high school at the Daily Plainsman newspaper, run by renowned publisher Robert Lusk. Her primary task was summarizing news articles and advertisements from other papers for him. His mentorship honed her lifelong passions for learning about world events and composing compelling writings, while reinforcing her appreciation for her home state. She attended the University of South Dakota under a 4-year, full ride scholarship for which she had not even applied! She believed her Huron mentors had advocated on her behalf, for which she remained forever grateful. While at USD, she served her beloved sorority Kappa Alpha Theta as chapter treasurer and won a position on the university's traveling debate squad. She graduated as a proud Coyote in 1948 with a BA in Journalism.

Upon graduation, Phyllis was offered an opportunity to join Better Homes and Gardens magazine in Des Moines, IA as a copywriter. Instead she accepted a similar position with the prominent TS Martin Department Store in Sioux City, IA. Here, she encountered cutting edge fashion and fine merchandise, experiences that sharpened her appreciation for presentation and attention to detail.

Phyllis met Dr. Robert J Foley, of Blair NE, through a blind date arranged by mutual friends when he was home on leave from the Pensacola Naval Base. They married on December 27, 1950 in Sioux City. Phyllis, in characteristic prairie style, adapted to the delay of her wedding dress delivery when a severe blizzard prevented East Coast trains from reaching Sioux City until after the ceremony, which of course occurred as scheduled.

While in Huron visiting her mother, Phyllis and Bob were invited to Tyndall, where the local physician had suffered an incapacitating injury. This connection was facilitated through a friendship between St Leo's pastor, Rev. Francis Cronin and the Franciscan superior nun at St. John's School of Nursing in Huron, where Phyllis' mother, Katherine Tschetter Gross, served as housemother. Through the persistence of Fr. Cronin, Phyllis and Bob agreed to practice in Tyndall temporarily until June 1952 when Bob was to begin an orthopedic surgery residency in Chicago. Heartfelt pleas from the community persuaded the young couple to remain in Tyndall permanently.

They would dedicate their lives to St. Michael's Hospital, in which Tyndall businessmen had invested before their arrival. The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton provided administrative and medical staff; Bob and Phyllis valued the professional skills and selfless dedication of the nuns in their health ministry. Similar to her own mother, Phyllis enjoyed an ongoing relationship with the local Benedictine sisters, working with them on various hospital service projects. Phyllis was extremely active in the hospital auxiliary organization and fondly recalled the group's great satisfaction over the purchase of the hospital's first electric motorized patient bed. She helped design and decorate the Tyndall Clinic building and highly valued the excellent standard of care established both there and at the hospital, a tradition that continues today at the Bon Homme Clinic/Avera Hospital.

Phyllis hosted countless home cooked meals for USD medical students completing their 'family practice' preceptorship in Tyndall; adding another setting to the table was never a problem, even when 21 pork chops were required for a single meal! Her lifelong appreciation of the medical community informed the establishment of a rural-focused medical education scholarship at Sanford Medical School of the