



She Watched For Us

*She always learned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late, In winter by the
Windows, In summer by the gate.
And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who has such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe
Because she waited there
Her thoughts were all so full of us-
She never could forget
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.
Waiting until we come home to her,
Anxious if we were late-
Watching from Heaven's window,
Leaning on Heaven's gate.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Marilyn Ruth Stemsrud

WHO WAS BORN

June 30, 1932
Marvin, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

January 22, 2025
Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.
Living Word Lutheran Church
Milbank, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Pastor Curtis Simonson

MUSICIAN

Sheila Dailie, Organist

CASKET BEARERS

John Waltz | Jared Waltz | Brandon DeClercq
Amber DeClercq | Robert Johnson | Kenneth Johnson

INTERMENT

Milbank Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Marilyn's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Following the graveside service, please join the family for
a time of food and fellowship in the church dining room.

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

Marilyn Ruth (Johnson) Stemsrud was born on June 30, 1932, in Marvin, SD, to Elmer Johnson and Bertina (Barlund) Johnson. She attended Osceola #1 Township School until the age of eight, then the family moved to rural Milbank where she attended Grant Center #5 school and later attended high school in Milbank. Marilyn graduated from Milbank High School in 1950. She went to work for Dr. Norman Madsen, DDS, and Whetstone Valley Electric prior to her marriage. Marilyn was united in marriage with John M. Stemsrud on September 28, 1957, at American Lutheran Church in Milbank.

Marilyn and John lived and worked on their ranch near Stockholm, SD, where they raised beef and dairy cattle. She worked on the farm, milking cows alongside John in the evenings for many years and was also a stay-at-home mom for their four daughters. John passed away in 1992. Marilyn worked at the Stockholm Elevator as a bookkeeper in her later years.

Marilyn was involved in many community organizations. At the time of her death, she was a member of Living Word Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD. She attended a women's Bible study group in Stockholm and taught summer Bible school at Elim Covenant Church for many years. She was an active member of the Stockholm-Strandburg American Legion Auxiliary for many years. Marilyn was known as a kind, cheerful, trustworthy person and served as the treasurer of many of the groups she was involved in, including the Stockholm Township Board, where she was treasurer until 2021. She was active in the Stockholm Community Club, Grant County Diabetes Association, Grant County Combined Appeal, Elm Grove and Harmony Homemakers Extension Clubs, Peppy Pals 4-H Club, and church circles and quilting groups.

Taking pride in her yard and enjoying gardening, Marilyn grew both vegetables and flowers. In her later years, she loved mowing her yard with her John Deere mower, doing so until she was 88 years old. She was a regular at coffee time and senior meals at the Stockholm Cafe, where, again, she handled the payments and deposits. Marilyn took many bus trips with friends and enjoyed needlepoint, stitchery, and reading.

At the urging of her daughters, Marilyn moved to Park Place Assisted Living in Milbank in December 2021 and then to St. William's Care Center in February 2024. She enjoyed watching game shows and was regularly involved with Bingo, coffee time, and arts and crafts, and had been selected as president of the resident council shortly before her passing.

John and Marilyn were the parents of four daughters: Nancy (Wayne) Van Hout of Milbank, SD; Julie (Bill) Waltz of Sioux Falls, SD; Kristi Stemsrud of Mankato, MN; and Carol Stemsrud (fiancé, Chris Jones) of Savannah, GA; three grandchildren: Amber (Brandon) DeClercq of Fairmont, MN; John Waltz of Brandon, SD; and Jared Waltz of Sioux Falls, SD; and one great-grandchild, Meekah DeClercq of Fairmont, MN. She was deeply loved and will be genuinely missed by them all, as well as by many, many others.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and brothers: Herbert Johnson and Gordon Johnson.

Please use this QR Code to view
Marilyn's obituary and tribute video.



I N Loving M E M O R Y



Marilyn R. Stemsrud
1932 - 2025