

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."



In Loving Memory



Marliss Pedersen Fiscella

February 13, 1935 ~ October 9, 2025

Marliss (Cornelius) Pedersen Fiscella was born February 13, 1935, at Canton, South Dakota, to Melvin and Avis (Thompson) Cornelius. She grew up in Canton and Gerritson, South Dakota until she and her family moved to Inwood, Iowa in 1941. Marliss attended country school near Inwood and graduated from Inwood High School in 1953. She attended the Iowa State Teachers College, now University of Northern Iowa, for two years and then began teaching Kindergarten and elementary music at Inwood. When Inwood and Larchwood merged and formed West Lyon, Marliss continued to teach Kindergarten. She taught for a total of 30 years. While teaching, Marliss returned to school and received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at Augustana College in 1965. She was very proud to be a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Honorary Teacher's Society. In 1975 she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

On June 19, 1955, Marliss married Roger Pedersen, and they farmed south of Inwood until Roger's death on March 11, 1992. Later she moved to Green Valley, Arizona. On May 20, 1997, she married Ed Fiscella. Ed died October 10, 2014. Marliss remained in Arizona until she became a resident of Fellowship Village in Inwood in 2018. Marliss passed away at Fellowship Village on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the age of 90.

Marliss was very active in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Inwood, singing with and/or directing various adult and children's choirs. Music was a big part of her life, and she sang at numerous weddings, funerals, and community events.

She is survived by her sister, Dorothy (Roger) Smith of Rock Valley, Iowa; brother, George (Barbara) Cornelius of Los Lunas, New Mexico; sister-in-law, Charmaine Pedersen of Inwood, Iowa; nephews, Drew (Sharla) Smith, and Chad (Amy) Smith; niece, Shannon Hebert; nieces-in-law, Tami (Mark) Miller, Terri (Gene) Boysen, and Pat Pedersen; nephew-in-law, Brian (Diane) Pedersen; many great, and great-great nieces and nephews; close friends, Linda Suitor, Roberta Madland, and Kandi Anderson; and many more relatives, friends, and former students.

Marliss was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Avis Cornelius; both husbands, Roger Pedersen and Ed Fiscella; parents-in-law, Ejner and Stina Pedersen; brothers-in-law, Ernst (Marian) Pedersen and Art Pedersen; nephew-in-law, Scott Pedersen; and great-great-niece, Makayla Smith.

Remembering the Life of
Marliss Pedersen Fiscella

February 13, 1935 ~ October 9, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Inwood, Iowa

OFFICIANTS

Pastor Sue Sinclair
Pastor Kandi Anderson

ACCOMPANIST

Rhonda Wiksen

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"
Dan Moen

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Because He Lives"
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PALLBEARERS

Brian Pedersen ~ Chad Smith
Darin Smith ~ Jamie Smith
Gene Boysen ~ Terri Boysen
Mark Miller ~ Tami Miller

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Roger Smith ~ Drew Smith
Jerry Van Voorst ~ Galen Van Beek
George Cornelius ~ Shannon Hebert

INTERMENT

Richland Cemetery
Inwood, Iowa

Marliss' family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service at the cemetery.