

Barbara Ann Mattson, 84, of Sturgis, passed away peacefully on June 26, 2026.

Barb was born in Deadwood on December 17, 1941, to Frank and Ruth (Clarke) Rachetto. She grew up working hard on the family dairy farm in Boulder Canyon. After graduating from Deadwood High School in 1959, she pursued her passion for helping others by attending St. John's McNamara Nursing School in Rapid City.

On September 2, 1960, Barb married the love of her life, Jon Mattson. Together, they embarked on a journey that took them across Colorado and South Dakota as Jon pursued his education. Barb dedicated herself to nursing, working in hospitals in Durango and Gunnison, Colorado, and later in Yankton and Vermillion, South Dakota.

The couple eventually returned home to the family dairy farm in Boulder Canyon. Barb continued her nursing career at hospitals in Deadwood and Rapid City while balancing the daily demands of ranch life.

Beyond nursing, Barb was a vibrant entrepreneur and dedicated civic leader. For over 20 years, she owned and operated the Deer Mountain Ski Area where she was very involved in Ski for Light. She also owned the Lucky Wrangler Casino in Deadwood for several years. Deeply invested in her community, Barb served as a Lawrence County Commissioner and as a member of the Lawrence County Planning and Zoning Commission. She was also a proud supporter of local history, actively participating in the annual Day of '76 celebration and riding side-saddle in the historic parade.

Barb was a strong person and was respected by employees, friends and family. She was especially supportive of supporting her children in their rodeo competitions and daily practices. Jon and Barb were long time members of the First Lutheran Church in Lead. In 2013 Barb and Jon moved to their rural Sturgis home just over Sly Hill.

Barb is survived by her devoted husband, Jon Mattson of Sturgis; her daughter, Cherie (Rusty) Kluender of Arcadia, NE; her two sons, Jay (Melinda) Mattson and Jimmy Mattson, both of Sturgis; six grandchildren, Clay, Kendra, Caleb, Bodie, Brett, and Asher; and several beloved great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Ruth Rachetto, and her brother, Jerry Rachetto.



In Loving Memory

Barbara Ann Mattson

December 17, 1941 ~ June 26, 2026



Our Father.

Who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



In Loving Memory

Barbara Ann Mattson

BORN

December 17, 1941
Deadwood, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY

June 26, 2026
Sturgis, South Dakota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

July 6, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM
Muley Hill Lodge
Deadwood, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Rusty Kluender	Jim Thompson
Father Tony Grossenburg	Allen Loken
Bill Walsh	Mike Johnson
David Winters	Aidyn Miller

SOLOIST

Paul Larson

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art"	"Always On My Mind"
"Home"	"I'll Fly Away"

HONORARY URN BEARERS

Barb's Grandchildren
Clay, Kendra, Caleb, Bodie, Brett, and Asher

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Oakridge Cemetery
Deadwood, South Dakota

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Central NE Cowboy Church
45640 HWY 70, Arcadia, NE 68815

Please join the family for refreshments and
fellowship downstairs after the service.