

Marlene Shirley Altena was born on February 10, 1934, to Henry and Effie (Broek) Altena on the family farm near Doon, Iowa. She was the youngest of eight children. On July 8, 1952, she was united in marriage to Raymond Te Slaa following Ray's service in the Army. Together they were blessed with four children and later became foster parents to a bonus son, Mike Zuiderhof. Marlene and Ray farmed near Garretson, South Dakota, for 10 years before moving to Rock Valley, Iowa.

Marlene had a true gift of hospitality. Nothing brought her more joy than having family and friends gathered around her table, enjoying a homemade meal, a cup of coffee, or one of her delicious goodies. She was known for several special recipes, but especially her Ollie Bollen, which became a sought after item at many church and school auctions. Her home was a place filled with warmth, laughter and meaningful conversation. Marlene always took a sincere interest in the lives of others and was intentional about encouraging and uplifting anyone who took the time to visit with her.

Marlene had many passions. She lovingly helped Evy for many years, assisting with the children in her daycare. She also enjoyed gardening and canning, often sharing her produce with neighbors and friends. She loved attending her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities. Even when she could no longer attend in person, she always wanted to see pictures and videos so she could still be part of their lives. Marlene also took great pride in serving as custodian at Calvin CRC for 50 years. She was determined to make sure "God's House" was kept clean and orderly each and every day.

The 2024 flood had a significant impact on Marlene, as she lost her home and most of her belongings. That night, she had made peace with the fact that she thought the good Lord was calling her home. However, God had a different plan. Marlene loved sharing that story and her testimony of the peace God gave her in the midst of such uncertainty.

Marlene was a faithful prayer warrior for her children, grandchildren and anyone who asked to be added to her prayer list. Her life was a living testimony of what it means to trust God, to pray, and to lean on Him in the hard times, while giving Him all the glory in the good times. Her relationship with the Lord shaped her character, her kindness, and the way she loved others.

Those left to cherish her memory are:

Son, Harvey (Marlene) Te Slaa of Manhattan, Montana

Jason (Kristy) Te Slaa of Great Falls, Montana

Weston, Logan, Devin, and Ethan

Nathan (Kristin) Te Slaa of Manhattan, Montana

Simon, Daniel and Louise

Michelle (Brett) Nibbelink of Manhattan, Montana

Bria and Micah

Son, Floyd (Robin) Te Slaa of Rock Valley

Daughter, Evy (Rick) De Kam of Rock Valley

Bradley (Faye) De Kam of Boyden

Teigen, Maeley, Dade and Sienna

Matthew (Cacey) De Kam of Sioux Center

Piper, Adrean, Kobi and Apollos

Marlene was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Effie Altena; husband, Raymond Te Slaa; son, Vernon Te Slaa; granddaughter, Molly Wren Te Slaa; six brothers; and one sister.

The family wishes to offer special thanks to the staff at Aspen Heights and St. Croix Hospice for the amazing care Marlene received while in their service.

Celebrating the Life of **Marlene Shirley Te Slaa**

February 10, 1934 ~ May 9, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:30 AM, Monday, June 8, 2026

Calvin Christian Reformed Church

Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Pastor Doug De Groot

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-3

ACCOMPANIST

Cacey De Kam

SPECIAL MUSIC

"When Peace Like A River"

Cory Altena

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Because He Lives"

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

"There Is A Redeemer"

RECESSIONAL

"Hallelujah Chorus"

Marlene's family invites everyone to a luncheon and time of fellowship at the enclosed shelter house at the City Park in Rock Valley following the service.

23rd Psalm

THE LORD IS MY *Shepherd*: I SHALL NOT WANT.
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES:
He leadeth me BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL: HE LEADETH ME IN THE
PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
for His names sake.
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE
SHADOW OF DEATH, *I will fear no evil:*
FOR THOU ART WITH ME: THY ROD AND
THY STAFF *they comfort me.*
THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE
PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES:
THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL:
my cup runneth over.
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW
ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: AND I WILL
DWELL IN THE *house of the Lord forever.*



In Loving Memory



Marlene Shirley Te Slaa

February 10, 1934 ~ May 6, 2026