

Bernadean Madge (Gellner) Johnson was born on January 14, 1934 to Adam and Hazel (Schemp) Gellner. She was born at the Firesteel Lumberyard where Adam was the manager, and her delivery was a miracle in and of itself, as those present were certain the baby was dead and she was thrown under the bed; luckily the midwife noticed she was moving and the doctor decided she was worth saving as well. An only child, Bernadean decided at a young age that Mindy would make a more suitable name and this became a nickname that family and friends called her for her entire life. The small family moved to Timber Lake when Bernadean was young, and this is where she attended school and graduated in 1952. Throughout her childhood, Bernadean's talent for the arts grew—for years the family home rang with the music she made on her cherished piano and the paintings she created over her lifetime are still displayed with pride by her family and friends. Two months after graduation, she married John Johnson at the Methodist Church in Timber Lake and her education continued as the city girl learned to become a ranch wife. Once she picked up on the requirements for being a wife, she and John added two children to the mix—Alan Earl in 1954 and Kathy Ann in 1957.

Bernadean's life was full with the demands of cooking for a large "crew" of John's brothers and hired men. She was, at best, an uninspired cook, but no one ever went away hungry. John would often announce that so-and-so had just arrived for dinner and to throw another potato in the pot. Though her cooking abilities were lacking, she was devoted to desserts, often spending days preparing the different candies that would be served during the Christmas holiday.

To say Bernadean was an avid reader would be a gigantic understatement. Her home was filled with books and she passed that passion on to her children and grandchildren. She believed that every house required cats and dogs and that was what made a house into a home—another trait passed on to the future generations. Bernadean's love for music, art, books, needlework, and crochet helped her to stay centered. At the age of fifty, she decided it was time to do something for herself and enrolled in the LPN School in Pierre, SD. She graduated with her degree, passed her state boards, and then declared, "There, I did it," and returned to the ranch and John, never to actually practice in nursing.

Bernadean and John lived, argued, and loved each other until his death in 2019, being married 64 years. Both Bernadean and John lived at the Riverview Healthcare Nursing Home in Flandreau (Bernadean moved there in 2014). At Riverview, she lived her life as she wanted, the couple quickly became favorites of the staff, and the workers learned how to deal with Bernadean's quirks and loved her dearly. Bernadean hated the wind and loved peace and solitude and over the past two years she would remind anyone who was listening that she had lived a good life filled with work, but that she was ready to go home. Bernadean passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 28, 2021.

Bernadean is survived by her son Alan (Collette) Johnson of Hill City, SD; daughter Kathy (Gary) Eikmeier of Pipestone, MN; 4 grandchildren, Jeremy (Lauren) Johnson of Atlanta, GA; Lana (Tony) Bradstream of, IA; Jessica (Kipp) Magelky of Kadoka, SD; Grady Eikmeier of Draper, SD; and great-grandchildren Michael, Katie, Becca, Alex, and Hanna Johnson, Kiera and Kaleb Bradstream, Kaidean and Kallen Magelky, Lillianna, Jared, and Cooper Eikmeier.

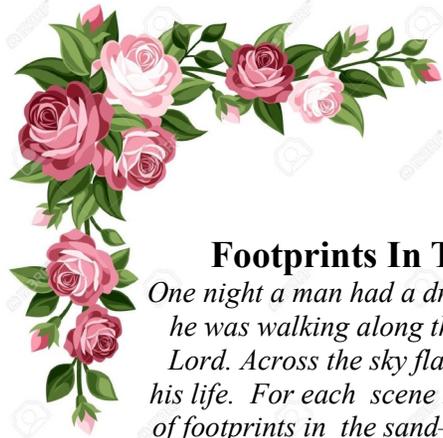
A memorial has been established to American Diabetes Association and South Dakota Public Broadcasting, another passion of Bernadean's.

In Loving Memory Of:



Bernadean Johnson

January 14, 1934 ~ July 28, 2021



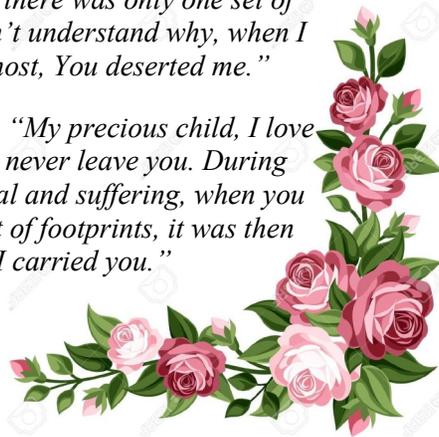
Footprints In The Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand—one belonging to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene had flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noticed that this happened during the lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord, "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, You deserted me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Bernadean Johnson

87 Years ~ 6 Months ~ 14 Days

BORN:
January 14, 1934
Firesteel, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY:
July 28, 2021
Flandreau, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICES:
10:00 AM, Saturday, August 28, 2021
United Parish Church
Timber Lake, South Dakota

CLERGY:
Vicar Teri Gayer

PIANIST:
Pat Kjellson

SOLOIST:
Tom Dafnis

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:
"Amazing Grace" ~ "The Hymn of Promise"

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS:
All Bernadean's Grandchildren

INURNMENT:
Timber Lake Cemetery
Timber Lake, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home of Mobridge