

Emma Lucille Bickley, aka "Cookie" 83, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2026 at Hugs Haven Assisted Living in Sturgis, South Dakota. She had resided there for seven years where she enjoyed being spoiled by the staff and being closer to many family members.

Emma was born May 4, 1943 to George Byron McFarland and Ester (Holst) McFarland in Sturgis. She was the youngest of ten children. She graduated Sturgis Brown High School in May 1961, and attended South Dakota State University until July 1965, when she graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Arts and Science with a major in English. While attending SDSU, she met and later married James Michael Bickley on September 5, 1964. They were divorced 20 years later. During those years, they had miscarried a baby girl they named Michelle whose ashes will be interred with her in Spearfish.

Cookie worked after graduation for AT&T in Illinois, then Pillsbury in Minneapolis. She later began working as a civil servant for the Defense Department, specializing in contracting through the Army. She was awarded the Department of the Army Achievement award, which is an honorary award given to Department of the Army civilian employees for noteworthy achievements and sustained superior service. She was the Chief of the Services Contracting Branch at White Sands Missile range for several years. She later joined the Fish and Wildlife Service from which she retired in the early 2000s.

Cookie lived in multiple cities, including Minneapolis, MN, Chicago, IL, San Diego, CA, Baltimore, MD, Fairfax, VA, Las Cruces, NM and Albuquerque, NM. After retiring from the US government, she spent a year in Alpine, CA, then settled in Tucson, AZ to be near her dear sister Margaret. In 2017, she moved to Sturgis to be closer to family after Margaret moved to North Carolina. She loved shopping, antiques, jewelry, collecting Hummels, getting her fingernails done, traveling (especially to Ireland and her timeshare in Ruidoso, NM), reading, dogs and cats, and chocolate—lots of chocolate. She also dearly loved her siblings and their spouses, all of her many nieces and nephews and their families, and often traveled to spend time, holidays, and family reunions with them.

She was preceded in death by her parents and all of her siblings and most of their spouses—William B. (Ramona), Mary Elle (Melvin D.) Jones, James W., Genevieve (Robert) Brechtel, Glenn D. (Georgia), Dorothy E. (Robert) Parkinson, Margaret Snyder, Gregor B., and David A. She was also preceded in death by three nephews and three nieces: Kurt Parkinson, Terry Parkinson, Jay Jones, Candice (Jones) Osborne, Patricia (Brechtel) Pyburn, and Dawn McFarland.

She is survived by three special sisters-in-law—Ardith (Gregor), Dodie (David) and Leona (James) and 34 nieces and nephews and their families who were all very special to her.

Should friends desire, in honor of Emma's love for animals (especially Schnauzers) memorial contributions may be made to Hobo's Healing Heart.

www.hoboshealingheart.org



In Loving Memory

Emma Lucille "Cookie" Bickley

1943 - 2026



Do not stand
at my grave and weep...
I am not there...
I do not sleep...

I am a thousand winds that blow ~
I am a diamond glint on snow ~
I am the sunlight on ripened grain ~
I am the gentle autumn rain ~
When you awake in the morning hush ~
I am the swift uplifting rush ~
of quiet birds
in circling flight ~
I am the soft starshine at night ~

Do not stand
at my grave and cry...
I am not there...
I did not die...

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In Loving Memory

Emma Lucille "Cookie" Bickley

BORN

May 4, 1943

Sturgis, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY

September 15, 2026

Sturgis, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday, September 24, 2026 ~ 6:00 PM

Kinkade Funeral Chapel

OFFICIANT

Pastor David Piper

MUSIC

Danny Chapman ~ Soloist

"How Great Thou Art" "Rock Of Ages"

"On Eagle's Wings"

"I Can Only Imagine" ~ Mercy Me

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Cookie's nephews and great nephews

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Rosehill Cemetery

Spearfish, South Dakota