

Elizabeth Ann Cottrell, age 89 of Gillette, Wyoming passed away on September 14, 2026 at Campbell County Memorial Hospital in Gillette, Wyoming. She was born September 2, 1937 at McHenry Hospital in Gillette, Wyoming to Howard and Alberta (Kee) Bennage. She attended grade and high school in Gillette, graduating from high school in 1955. Elizabeth attended the University of Nebraska for one year before marrying Kerry Czapla on November 20, 1956. They moved to the Czapla Ranch located in the Four Corners area south of Gillette where they raised their family of Dave, Doug, and Kristen. The ranch was sold to the coal company in 1976. Kerry and Elizabeth separated and later divorced. She attended Sheridan College achieving National Honor Society status. Elizabeth and Kristen moved to Laramie where both she and Kristen graduated in 1981, Kristen from Laramie High School and Elizabeth from the University of Wyoming with a BSN degree in Nursing. She returned to Gillette and was employed with CCMH for the next 20 years. She worked in various areas of the hospital including ICU, Surgery Department and was the Manager of the Med Surg Unit. Her favorite position was as a Case Manager for Occupational Health. She retired in 2001. She married Lyle Cottrell on February 20, 1988 and their life was an adventure with camping, fishing, whitewater rafting and yearly vacations to Mexico. Lyle died suddenly in July of 1991. Elizabeth traveled extensively, taking her entire family to Ireland in 2012, attending her grandson's wedding in Alaska and riding the rail system throughout Europe. She was active in the First Baptist Church, Gillette, Wyoming and loved gardening, becoming a Master Gardener. She was civic minded, serving on various boards in the community. She began quilting & won many awards. She was passionate about cooking and baking, collecting and sharing many wonderful recipes. She spent the past few years enjoying community life and her apartment at Primrose and attending church on Sundays at First United Methodist Church in Gillette. Elizabeth is survived by children Dave (Janet) Czapla of Gillette, Wyoming, Doug (Lisa) Czapla of Clermont, Florida and Kristen Noe of Summersville, Kentucky. Grandchildren; Amanda (Adam) Badertscher of Thornton, Colorado, Ty (Kacie) Czapla of Tyler, Texas, Phil (Anna) Czapla of Wasilla, Alaska, Samantha (fiance' Kyle) Noe of Greensburg, Kentucky and Jake (Jacqueline) Noe of Summersville, Kentucky. She leaves behind six great-children Ruby and Sadie Badertscher, Ben and Lily Czapla, Kalli and Evelyn Czapla and Meredith and Branson Noe. Her children, grandchildren & great-granchildren were the most important things in her life. She will be greatly missed by her family. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel 210 West 5th Street, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at www.gillettmemorialchapel.com

In Loving Memory Of...



Elizabeth Cottrell

September 2, 1937

September 14, 2026



Rita Mashak | Tara Aanonson
Tara Cowger
Funeral Service - Monuments -
Advance Planning - Cremation -
Lending Library, Learning to say
goodbye; children's tour.



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God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw a tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, "Peace bethine".
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Funeral Service

11:00 a.m. Monday, September 21, 2026

First United Methodist Church

Gillette, Wyoming

Officiant

Pastor Patricia Bell

Musicians

Kenna Rose

Claudia Urlaub

Songs

"Then Came the Morning"

"I'll Fly Away"

Pallbearers

Phil Czapla | Ty Czapla

Ben Czapla | Bryan Geer

Kevin Geer | Adam Badertscher

Interment

Mount Pisgah Cemetery

Gillette, Wyoming

*The family extends an invitation to a reception and time of
fellowship following interment at Cemetery Community Room.*