

What Mom Took

Most often when we think of Mom,
We think of what she's given:
The softness of a loving touch,
A gentle guide for living;
A nightly tip-toe in a room,
An understanding look;
But sometimes when I think of Mom
I think of what she took.
She took a child and taught it how
To live this life with pride
She took those kindergarten tears,
And kept them all inside.
She took the hand that longed to hold
Her child and not let go
Used them to push her child along
The way, to thrive and grow.
Took time to do some other things
Like sew, and clean and cook,
And never thought to ask for thanks
For all the things she took.
Thank, Mom.

Judith Bond

In Loving Memory of

Rosemarie Karlen

August 15, 1926 ~ October 6, 2026

Funeral Service

Reliance Methodist Hall
Reliance, SD
10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 10, 2026

Officiating

Pastor Roy Karlen

Music

Layne Donaldson

Casketbearers

Merrill Karlen Jr.
Brad Karlen
Warren Karlen
Bryant Frederick
Tyler Frederick
Justin Gray

Interment

Reliance Cemetery
Reliance, SD

The family invites everyone for lunch & fellowship back at the church hall following the committal services.

***Arrangements By**: Hickey Funeral Home, Chamberlain, SD*



Rosemarie Fletcher was born August 15, 1926, in Lyman County on the family farm east of Reliance, SD to Roy O. and Elsie M. (Albert) Fletcher. She attended school at Reliance, SD where she graduated high school. After high school, she attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where she obtained her Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree.

On December 2, 1955, Rosemarie married Merrill Karlen. They were married for 51 years and had eight children; and together they made their home on their ranch north of Reliance until Rosemarie entered Sanford Care Center in Chamberlain, SD in June 2026.

Rosemarie was a wonderful cook, and she was especially proud of her pies. She packed countless field lunches that were greatly enjoyed by our family and crews for whatever job that we had going on. She had many hobbies including knitting, crocheting, sewing, gardening, doing genealogy with her family and her sister Carol, playing board games with family, and she was an avid reader.

Rosemarie passed away on October 6, 2026, at Sanford Care Center in Chamberlain at the age of 100 years.

Gratefully sharing her life are her children Merrill Jr (Karen) Karlen, Laura Karlen, William Roy (Gail) Karlen, Paula (Andrew) Gray, Connie (Diane) Karlen, Julie (Clint) Goodman, Brad (Rita) Karlen, and Warren Karlen; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband Merrill; her brothers Don, Roger, Doug and Martin Fletcher; and her sister Carol Anderson.



In Loving Memory

Rosemarie Karlen

1926 ~ 2026