

Marlys Mae (Schumaker) Kunze passed away on July 25, 2026, at the age of 81. Born the youngest of 7 children on April 4, 1945, (she will be mad we are listing her birth year), to August and Otilia (Graf) Schumaker, Marlys was raised in Medina, ND. She married Curtis Trautman in 1962. They graduated from High School in 1963 and in June Annette Rae was born. They lived in Medina, Montana and Jamestown during their marriage and Marlys worked various service industry positions. In 1970, she went back to school at North Dakota State College of Science to study Nursing. She graduated with her associates degree as an LPN and began her nursing career at Mercy Hospital in Valley City.

In 1972, she married Thomas Kunze. In 1978, another daughter was born of this union with Tom, Tonya Marie. Marlys always said she "raised the babysitter before having another baby". She continued her nursing career, working evenings and nights at the nursing home and Mercy Hospital, while supporting their farming venture until 2010. Tom passed unexpectedly in 2007.

Through the years, Marlys served on many committees from the Eagles, church and hospital auxiliaries, always ready to lead and serve where she was needed. Marlys was known for her strong and fun-loving personality as well as her take-charge attitude. She enjoyed going out dancing, taking trips to Medora and Minneapolis with family and friends, and she loved her trips to Chanhassen, Branson, Nashville and Vegas. She lived each day with her high-spirited enthusiasm and desire to be on the go. There was no church or Winter Show luncheon, buffalo feed or Knoephla/German food day she didn't miss. She and family members would often drive to South Dakota or Minnesota to see nieces and nephews or small towns in North Dakota to get the 'best sausage' to bring home to can. She often hosted family holidays or cooked her best stuffing or salad to bring.

Marlys had multiple circles of friends from her nursing days including her monthly retired nursing suppers, her coffee clubs, her birthday clubs, her church and hospital auxiliaries and she LOVED each one of them. Known by many for her love of banter, her weekly hair appointments, her late-night talks, her love of clothes, shoes and purses, and cats, her displeasure of early morning calls or appointments, she will be missed by many.

Preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Alvin, Ervin and Harold; sister, Stella; and husband Tom; along with a niece, Carrie; and nephew, Rick Bier; and one great grandchild, Cooper Hinrichs.

She is survived by her sisters, Lucille Mayer and Betty Peters; daughters, Annette (Jon) Hinrichs and Tonya (Morgan) Wells; grandchildren, Alec (Jackie), Riley, Keifer (Stacie) Hinrichs and Ridley Wells; great grandchildren, Camden, Charlie, Calvin, Theo and Reese Hinrichs; and many very beloved nieces and nephews.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Marlys Mae Kunze

April 4, 1945 - July 25, 2026



Legacy of Love

*A wife, a mother, a grandma too.
This is the legacy we have from you.
You taught us love and how to fight,
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart, you were always kind.
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.
For all of us you gave your best,
Now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep.
Your love in our hearts, we'll eternally keep.*

~ Author Unknown

FUNERAL SERVICE

*Friday, July 31, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
Valley City, North Dakota*

OFFICIATING

Pastor Diane Krumm

READER

Sr. Nicole Kunze

MUSIC

*Cyndi Hill ~ Accompanist
Dan Klein ~ Soloist*

PALLBEARERS

*Alec Hinrichs ~ Riley Hinrichs ~ Keifer Hinrichs
Dan Everson ~ Steve Schlaht ~ Deveryn Malmlov*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Ridley Wells and Kory Kunze

BURIAL

*St. Catherine Catholic Cemetery
Valley City, North Dakota*

