



Gayle Sonnek

March 31, 1938 - November 22, 2008

Gayle Arlone Sonnek, age 70, of Billings, Montana, formerly of Beach, North Dakota, passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, at her home in Billings. A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, November 22, 2008, at First Lutheran Church in Beach with Pastor Paul Peterson officiating. Interment will follow in St. John's Cemetery. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Beach is entrusted with arrangements. Gayle was born on March 31, 1938, in Golden Valley county, the daughter of Clifford and Lenora "Toots" (Nelson) Stecker. She received her education at Beach High School. Gayle was a high school cheerleader and played in the high school band. She graduated with the class of 1955. She then attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and graduated from Dickinson State College in 1960. Gayle received a Lifetime Teaching Certificate from Dickinson State College. Gayle taught at Hebron, North Dakota, at a one-room country school north of Beach, and at Lincoln Elementary in Beach, where she was one of her youngest sister Becky's third grade teachers. Gayle married her high school sweetheart, Merl "Bud" Sonnek in 1959 and to this union two sons were born, Barry and Jerry. Gayle and Bud lived in Beach until December of 1977, then moved to Plummer, Minnesota, for 2 years, then down to Edgemont, South Dakota, up to Lemmon, South Dakota, down to Custer, South Dakota, then over to Pierre, South Dakota, and finally retiring to Show Low, Arizona, in 2000. After Bud's passing, she moved to Billings, Montana, in 2004. Gayle enjoyed visits from her family, loved being a mother, watching Johnny Carson and MASH and

laughing. Gayle was a very accomplished seamstress and tailor and enjoyed bowling, bridge and an occasional slot machine. She was a member of First Lutheran Church in Beach and the Beach Bridge Club. Gayle was preceded in death by her parents Cliff and Lenora "Toots" Stecker, and her husband, Merl "Bud" Sonnek. Gayle is survived by her son, Jerry and his wife Lisa of York, Nebraska; her son Barry Sonnek of Dana Point, California; 2 grandchildren, Erin and Nikki; and 5 great-grandchildren, Chloe, Cordillia, Cassidy, Colin and Addison; her sisters, Joan Thomas of Tuscon, Arizona, Karen Danzeisen of Lakewood, Colorado, and Becky Schell of Billings, Montana; and 9 nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gayle Sonnek*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM