



Joyce Flynn

February 15, 1927 - May 28, 2008

Joyce Lorraine Flynn, age 81, of Glendive, Montana, passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2008 surrounded by family at the Glendive Medical Center. A Life Tribute Service will be held 2:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 28, 2008 in the Chapel of the Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home in Glendive, with Celebrant Sandy Silha officiating. Joyce was born on February 15, 1927 in Peoria, Illinois the daughter of Leroy and Bernice (Gillespie) Erxleben. She was raised and educated in Peoria graduating from Peoria High School with the class of 1944. After graduation she took nurses training at St. Francis College in Peoria. She married Bob Flynn on December 15, 1945 in Peoria. They were married for 35 years when Bob preceded her in death. Joyce and Bob moved to Glendive in 1964. Joyce worked for F.W. Woolworth for 20 years, she then went to work at the West Park Café where she remained until her retirement. Her life was kept busy caring for each one of her great grandchildren. She enjoyed quilting and baking and she had been a member of the American Legion. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one sister, and a grandson Don Reed. Survivors include her daughter, Sherry Hendrickson and her husband Doug of Glendive; a son, Kim Flynn and his wife Marla of Raleigh, North Carolina; her brothers, Larry Erxleben and his wife Shirley of Marquette Heights, Illinois; who she loved so much, Leroy Erxleben and his wife Dorothy of Marysville, Washington; grandchildren Lori Herbaugh and her children Marissa, Taylor, Hunter, and Connor all of Glendive; Joy Ulrich and her children Jordan and Spencer all of Glendive;

Leslie Stein her husband Kent and their children Meagan and Corey of Apple Valley, Minnesota; Scott Ulrich his wife Heather and their children Taven and Hayden of Lake Dallas, Texas; Jenny Koering her husband Gary and their children James Anderson, Dustin and Kayla of Brainard, Minnesota; Tammy Reed and her children Josh and Hailey of Glendive; Shannon Hughes her husband Jerry and their children Garrison, Carter and Myha of Sidney, Montana; Ryan Ulrich his wife Terri and their children Damen, Erikton and Dalton of Farmington, New York; Becky Flynn of Tempe, Arizona; Michael Flynn of Raleigh, North Carolina; Jason Sasse his wife Jen and their children Logan and Caden of Glendive; two nieces Cathy Sangalli and family of Pekin, Illinois; Debbi Heinz and family of Chillicothe, Illinois; dear friend Dee Hall of Glendive. Celebrant Service: "Death ends a life, not a relationship." (Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom) Joyce Flynn's relationship with three generations of family has been so strong, so constant, so caring, that Joyce will remain alive forever in their hearts. As grandson Scott puts it, "She was home." Joyce was the first person the out of town grandkids stopped to see when arriving in Glendive. As for the grandkids who live here, you would find their cars and bikes parked at Joyce's home every day and at all times of the day. Some, such as grandkids, Becky and Mike, came and stayed for extended periods of time, and Joyce babysat and day-cared all the great-grandchildren on a regular basis. Joyce truly loved kids. All the grandkids and great-grandkids called her Grandma. And it didn't matter if you were born or acquired into her family, you were one of her kids. You were special. You were loved. You had the ultimate of Grandmas! As grandson Ryan stated it, she was awesome! Always family oriented, Joyce grew up with two brothers and a sister in Illinois. After her high school graduation, Joyce began nurses training but did not finish the training, choosing instead to marry. Joyce's husband, Bob Flynn, worked construction and he, Joyce and their young family moved around quite a bit those early years, leaving Illinois and heading west. Daughter Sherry recalls coming to a bridge as they headed to a new home and her father remarking about being in "God's country." Joyce's answer to that was, God

must have forgotten it. But once settled in Glendive, Joyce never wanted to move again and she never did. Joyce and her family in Illinois stayed in touch, especially Joyce and her brother, Larry, whom Joyce dearly loved. Larry and his wife, Shirley, came to visit Joyce and her family every year, for 35 years. And Joyce and her family made trips to Illinois to see family there. Son Kim remembers his mother as a young woman who was a bit timid and shy. But life's lessons made Joyce a stronger and more independent person. For Sherry, Joyce was more than a mother, she was a friend and a great supporter of her daughter through some very difficult times. And for both Kim and Sherry, Joyce was extra special because of the presence Joyce was in the lives of Kim and Sherry's children, Joyce's grandchildren. Grandson Scott enjoyed a very special relationship with Joyce. As mischievous as Scott was, as much as Joyce had to scold Scott and defend him, their love and respect was mutual. One story Scott and Grandma were famous for with the family, was a trip to Illinois. Sherry and a couple of her kids were in one car and Joyce and a couple of the other kids were following in Joyce's car. Suddenly Sherry became aware that Joyce was driving in and out of the median and couldn't seem to stay on the road. Sherry finds out that Scott is riding in the front seat and misbehaving, and Grandma is swatting him with the only thing available that can reach Scott, a purple fly swatter. And Scott is enduring all this by laughing hilariously. Which only makes his grandmother angrier. As an adult, Scott called his grandmother from every country on the five continents that he has been in. Joyce reveled in these calls, often making a point to tell Sherry she had heard from Scott. When Scott broke her rules, or tried her patience, she always loved him unconditionally, and more importantly, Scott always knew she did. Joyce's presence in his life was immense. Grandma was always there for him. Grandson Ryan admires how she included everyone in her family. When Ryan's parent's divorced, Ryan and Scott lived with their father next door to Joyce. Joyce had them all over every night for dinner, even though Ryan's father was no longer married to Joyce's daughter.

He was raising Joyce's grandkids, and was still family to be looked after. Ryan would seek refuge at his grandmother's when he got into trouble, and most times grandma would help him out. Once, however, she didn't and that still is a vivid memory for Ryan. Ryan was playing with matches at his house and his father was not at home. Ryan managed to burn a bathroom rug and after a failed attempt to cover it up, he escaped to his grandma's next door. Ryan would not tell Joyce what was going on, although she questioned Ryan repeatedly. Instead, afraid of what he had done and the punishment he imagined coming, Ryan hid in one of his grandmother's closets. Ryan heard his dad come looking for him, asking Joyce if Ryan was there. "Yup" was the response. "Where is he?" asked Ryan's father. Grandma answered, "closet." Ryan was never sure why Grandma had ratted him out that time, but he remembers it distinctly. When Ryan was in basic training in the army, one thing that you couldn't have was food sent from home. But Grandma Joyce still sent Ryan peanut butter cookies, and yes, he did get to eat a few. You could always count on Grandma. All grandma's "kids" had their own special relationship with Joyce and have many special memories. Granddaughter Joy had great fun with her Grandma on a trip to New Mexico. They were traveling with Doug and Sherry, in separate cars again, and took a wrong turn. And then took another wrong turn, and on the way home, another. Although Grandma and Joy took the longer, scenic route, they still arrived and had a memorable time doing it. Joyce worked many years in the Woolworth's café and she was famous for her cheesecake. Many wanted the recipe; no one got it. Until granddaughter Jenny that is. And then it only took Jenny two years to get all the little tricks from her grandmother that makes that cheesecake so delicious. But it is probably granddaughter Shannon who was Joyce's soul mate when it came to baking and sewing. Shannon mastered making the monster cookies, peanut butter cookies, and no bake cookies that Grandma Joyce gave out every Christmas with her Campbell's Soup Kid's calendars. Another tradition with Joyce was the blankets she loved to sew for her family. Joyce spent hours quilting and Shannon would help her grandma, sharing this

time with Joyce and developing her own love of quilting. Granddaughter Lori remembers many things about her grandma. Like, “sitting in her big ugly rocking chair (back when both their butts could fit) and eating popcorn”; and how Joyce moved in and took care of the family when Lori’s dad got hurt; she remembers the very ugly slippers that Joyce’s friend made for Joyce that Joyce loved; and how Grandma Joyce was teased by family about spending her grocery money at the Legion on Friday nights. Lori’s favorite story is of taking Grandma Joyce to the Department of Motor Vehicles in her wheelchair because Joyce just had to renew her driver’s license...and them actually letting her! Granddaughter Leslie’s greatest gift from Grandma Joyce was just being one of Grandma Joyce’s “kids”. When Doug and Sherry’s families became one, no one accepted it better or lived it more than Joyce. She didn’t just treat Doug’s daughters, Leslie and Tammy, like her own grandchildren, they became her grandchildren, “her kids.” And she was their grandma, unconditionally. For granddaughter, Tammy, Joyce offered another special gift. When Tammy lost her husband Don, Joyce gave her love and support as one who had also suffered through the death of a husband. She had some understanding of what Tammy was going through, and tried to help share that burden with Tammy. Yes, Joyce was a special grandma with great presence in the lives of her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. Having spent much time babysitting all of the great-grandchildren, they too have gotten to know and love their “grandma.” Jordan comments about grandma always having ice cream. Josh’s favorite food memory is fries and gravy. Taylor knew not to mess with Grandma’s many fridge magnets. And Spencer had a strong connection to his Grandma. It was Spencer who, when Joyce was in the hospital, would want to go to Dairy Queen during each visit and get ice cream and Joyce would give him money to do just that. He would return with the ice cream and want to share with his grandma. It was Spencer that didn’t think the nurses took good enough care of his grandma. It is Spencer who says he has a lot of memories of his grandma and he doesn’t want to share them. They are his! Each of you is fortunate to have your memories of Grandma

Joyce to share or to keep close to your heart. What a gift she was. Joyce's family will remember Joyce in many ways. They will remember her small home that was always open to them and full of love. They will remember holidays at Grandma's when chairs were at a premium and if you left your chair, someone else grabbed it. The Christmas routine was always church, Grandma Joyce's and then Sherry's. At Grandma's there would be one present for each, which you would open there with her. Joyce always loved clothes and good shoes. She enjoyed her crossword puzzles. It was very important that she have her car, even when she didn't drive anymore; it was a sign of her independence. Although she could make a dollar stretch a long ways, Joyce was always very generous, and enjoyed seeing to the needs of those around her. You didn't want to point out her mistakes. Son-in-law, Doug, tells of Joyce running out of gas once and as a bit of a joke, he gave Joyce a little gas pump as a reminder. About a year later, Doug ran out of gas, and Joyce gave him the pump back. Each generation she raised, got by with more than the previous one. She reserved the right to scold when someone did something wrong, but was very defensive of anyone else scolding those she cared about, as Sherry can tell you. Joyce loved this time of year. She enjoyed the spring flowers coming up and looked forward to planting her flowers. Joyce loved potted and planted flowers. Shannon has made up several big pots of potted plants and flowers for her grandmother and after today's service, these plants and flowers will honor Joyce by being part of the homes and yards of her family this summer. Joyce will be remembered for the food: her cookies, her cheesecake, the pepper steak, cabbage burgers, split pea soup, ham salad, potato salad, orange jello, strawberry pie, apple pie, and diet Pepsi. Throughout her life, Joyce remained independent and in her own home. These past few years, Joyce was becoming more forgetful and would repeat herself at times. Sherry would worry about this. But Kim reassured Sherry that there was a difference between a person losing something or losing a thought, and someone not knowing what things were or

who people were. When Joyce would forget or repeat and realize she had, she would just throw up her hands and say, "well, there's nothing wrong with me!" But mostly Joyce will be remembered and loved for always being there, for her caregiving ways, for her unconditional love of family, and for the way she had about her of making everyone around her feel important and very much loved. Grandma Joyce will be greatly missed. Let us now listen to a song chosen by Joyce's family called "Still A Family." Song: "Still A Family"

Celebrant: Closing Today is an important day. We remember and grieve for Joyce Flynn. Sherry and Doug, Kim and Marla, and to all Joyce's kids, we respect your grief for this fine woman. As your friends and community, we grieve for Joyce with you and we hope that by honoring her memory today, you will continue to celebrate her life and the many gifts she has left you. Joyce is a part of each of you, and as you hold her memory close, may you always feel the great love she had for you. To Joyce's friends and community, be sure to view all the pictures on the memory boards the family has made up. Evident on the faces in the photos is much love and many smiles. Be sure to read the special poem in the memory folder that great-granddaughter Marissa has written for Grandma Joyce titled "Things Happen". As you enjoy the potted plants and flowers near Joyce, note also the favorites the family has placed with Joyce today; a can of diet Pepsi, an Almond Joy candy bar, and crossword puzzles. Please listen to the following words whose author is anonymous: "You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see her Or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday Or you can be happy for tomorrow, because of yesterday. You can remember her, and only that she's gone Or you can cherish her memory, and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back, Or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on." It is time for our goodbyes to Joyce. Joyce's great-grandchildren, "her kids" have a special farewell for their Grandma.

Grandkids farewell: "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep" Joyce's touch on her world and the lives in it has been profound. Just as each fingerprint is unique with no two the same, it is the same for the impact that our lives have on others. Each of us has a unique soul and every time we come into contact with others we leave our soul print. Joyce Flynn has left her soul print with each of you. As you are ushered from your seat, the family invites you to come forward to leave your touch, your fingerprints, upon Joyce's casket to remain, blend together and forever signify the impact and soul print this wonderful life has made upon our soul. Joyce's soul print upon our life has touched us each in a different and unique way, which will remain as we carry these memories in our heart. Your touch is that of friendship and love in honor of Joyce's life and to the belief that a "life shared is a life to never be forgotten." Let us close with a favorite song of Joyce's, "Amazing Grace", and this message from Sherry and the family: Joyce, you were... "simply the best."

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Flynn*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM