



## Loma Mae Gilman

November 14, 1921 - December 28, 2011

Glendive, Montana: Loma Mae Gilman, age 90, formerly of Beach, North Dakota, passed away on Sunday, December 18, 2011 at the Glendive Medical Center in Glendive. A Life Tribute Service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 in the Chapel of the Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home in Beach with Celebrant Sandy Silha officiating. A Graveside Service will be held at 12:00 P.M. (CST) on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements. Loma was born on November 14, 1921 in Terry, Montana, the daughter of Jesse E. and Coralie (Redmond) Clark. She was raised and educated in Beach graduating from Beach High School with the class of 1940. Loma met and later married Donald E. "Monk" Gilman on November 22, 1942, in Alexander, Louisiana. As a couple they resided in Louisiana, Alabama and Texas while Monk served in the United States Army. After Monk was honorably discharged from the Army in 1946, Loma and Monk moved to Beach where they made their family home raising two children. Loma was preceded in death by her husband in 2008. Following his passing she remained a resident in Beach until 2010 when she moved to Glendive to live closer to her daughter. Loma was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for fifty plus years. During this time she was elected as Worthy Grand Matron in 1980, she served as a member of the Grandcross of Colors, the State Mother Advisor, and General Grand Chapter Committee Member on the national scale. She was a member

of the American Legion Club in Beach for sixty-five years. Loma did the bookkeeping for her husband's business and when he was elected as North Dakota Fireman's Association Executive Secretary. Loma was a lifelong home maker who enjoyed gardening and she loved sitting out in the yard admiring all of her flowers. She loved sewing and made most her own clothing and clothing for her family. Loma's grandchildren were her pride and joy, and at the age of 89, she traveled to Seeley Lake, Montana where she was able to enjoy dancing at her grandson's wedding reception. She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Dick and Lyle; two sisters, Joy and Iva; and one son-in-law, Oscar. Survivors include her son, Bob (Pam) Gilman of Deer Lodge, Montana; daughter, Rita Frank of Glendive; three grandchildren, Justin (Jen) Gilman of Missoula, Montana, Lindsay Gilman of Lincoln, Montana, and Kacie Gilman of Missoula; two sisters, Elizabeth Wheeler of Bozeman, Montana and Pansy Madson of Arizona; one brother, Deed Clark of Arizona and numerous nieces and nephews. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com](http://www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com). Eulogy: Today is an important day. Today we honor Loma Mae Gilman, a "genuine" lady, who holds a special place in the hearts of many. Loma was born just over 90 years ago in Terry, Montana. The family moved to Beach, North Dakota, where Loma was raised and educated. Loma spent the greater share of her life in Beach. In 2010, Loma moved to Glendive, Montana, to be near her daughter, Rita. The move allowed Rita to better help her mother, including delivering daily medications. Loma was one week short of one year of living at Makoshika Estates, in Glendive. Loma enjoyed her year there and the people she came to know. The only other time Loma lived away from Beach was due to a young man destined to be her life partner. Loma and Donald "Monk" Gilman, a Beach native, had known each other for years. Loma was dating Monk's friend and Monk was dating Loma's best friend. One day in February, they all climbed into Monk's big car named "Old Bertha", pooled their money for 10 cents a gallon gas, and headed out for a picnic and an icy swim. Loma reports Monk started calling her after that for dates. Monk enlisted in the

United States Army. He sent for Loma to come to Texas where the army had sent him, telling Loma to get the \$40 he had in the bank and come on down. Loma got the money, and headed to Texas on the train. Halfway there, Loma was pulled off the train. A scared Loma, not knowing what was going on, found out that the Army had Monk sent to Louisiana, and Monk wanted her put on a train to where he now was stationed. Arriving in Louisiana with six dollars in her pocket, Loma found a job. On November 22, 1942, Monk and Loma were married in Alexander, Louisiana. After two years in Louisiana, Monk was transferred to Texarkana. As Loma liked to tell, she and Monk didn't know where they lived...they slept in Louisiana, worked in Texas, and got their mail and relaxed in Arkansas. After the war and Monk's honorable discharge from the army, Loma and Monk moved back to Beach where Monk operated a dray business with Loma as his helpmate. They raised their two children, a son, Bob, and a daughter, Rita. Family and home were most important. In the tradition of their era, Monk was the provider for his family. Loma never worked at a job outside her home, but she partnered with Monk by doing the bookwork and record keeping of all his activities, including when Monk served those many years with the Fireman's Association. Rita says that many times if someone had a question, the quickest way to get an answer was through Loma. When it came to her family, Loma was "the wind beneath their wings." She was always there for her children, waiting when they came from school, and a great supporter of all they did. With her smiling face and welcoming heart, Loma and her husband, Monk, provided a gathering place for family. A nephew, Clark Wheeler, terms Loma and Monk as the "core of the family". Loma and Monk maintained close ties with their siblings and their families, and those who had moved from the Beach area would come to visit in the summers, staying with Loma and Monk and enjoying the warm hospitality they provided for all who entered their home. Loma had a particular talent for making everyone, especially children, feel very special. Without exception, Loma's nieces and nephews declare those summer stays with Loma and

Monk a highlight of their childhoods. Loma was fun to be around and would plan outings and picnics. Everyone was included in whatever project was going on. Nephew Lee Berg recalls Loma and Aunt B painting figurines one summer when he was there. They invited him to paint, and even though he felt it was a bit “girlie”, he spotted a cocker spaniel figurine. Loma and Monk had two spaniels and had given him his first dog, a cocker spaniel named Pepper, so Lee painted the dog figurine the three colors of the three dogs. Niece Bev Otto remembers having fun with Loma sewing, cooking and doing dishes. Bev recalls Loma always being busy, and somewhat of a night owl, sometimes doing laundry at night. Loma was a clotheshorse and loved to dress up, especially in long formals, of which she had quite a selection. Loma had many opportunities to dress up for Eastern Star and she always dressed up to call Bingo, a weekly activity. Bev and Rita were entertained many times with Loma modeling all her dresses. And shoes! Loma had a passion for shoes, 3” high heels. She had 125 pairs of shoes of every color to match every outfit. Another love of Loma’s was cooking. She put on huge dinners for family and friends. The Fireman’s Ball was a tradition on Thanksgiving Eve, and another tradition was a huge late night/early morning breakfast cooked by Loma for everyone after the dance. Christmas was important at the Gilman house with decorations both inside and out. Son Bob remembers Christmas meals were always a big event, with Loma serving 30 plus people. Meals were planned around the football games, and Loma made sure everyone was eating before she sat down to dinner. Loma and Monk loved to entertain, and when they added their screened-in patio to their home, everyone enjoyed coming over for steaks and ribs. Loma was the ultimate hostess, smiling, fun, and welcoming and serving the delicious food she was famous for. Loma was quite a seamstress, sewing most of her own coats and clothes, including the formals she loved to wear, and also sewing for her family. Sometimes she and Monk’s sister, Aunt B, would work together on a garment. Rita remembers a couple of special outfits made for her when she was young. One was a flower girl’s dress, that needed sequins and pearls put on it. As Loma and Aunt B

were hand sewing these to the dress, the family cat skidded across the table, scattering the beads everywhere, much to the dismay of the seamstresses. Another memorable outfit was a blue velvet dress made for Rita's school Christmas program. The velvet dress was trimmed in white fur and Rita had white boots to match. The hot iron fell over on the front of the dress and left a definite print. More white fur was attached to cover the scar left by the hot iron. Rita wore the dress for the program. Dressing up was both fun and important to Loma, and she will be remembered for always looking good in her many outfits and formals, and in her 3" heels. Sadly, in 1987, Loma broke her ankle, and while that didn't end her love of heels, it did end her fun of wearing them. Loma believed that if you belonged to something you should get involved. As a member of the Order of Eastern Star for over 50 years, Loma served at every level, local, state, regional, and national, with commitment and dedication. She traveled extensively for Eastern Star, and got Rita involved and traveling with her. They made some wonderful friends and memories with each other and with others involved in the organization. One year Loma was in the hospital from March 19 to May 12. Her motivation to get back on her feet was the State Eastern Star convention in June, which she and Rita attended. Loma enjoyed the friendships, the rituals, and the opportunity to wear formal attire that she experienced in the Order. Displayed today are a few of Loma's Eastern Star items including a gavel that Monk made for Loma when she was installed as the Grand Matron of Eastern Star. Loma was also an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 65 years. Both Eastern Star and the Auxiliary were special to Loma's heart. Loma's gardening was very important to her; flowers were her passion. Rita tells that Loma loved her red geraniums and her 500 tulips in the spring. Her yard was a visual bouquet for all to enjoy viewing. Loma found fun in all that she did; cooking, dressing up, sewing, gardening, Eastern Star and the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed fussing over children, playing cards and board games with her grandchildren, serious late night games of gin rummy with Don and Valli Ballard or other neighbors, collecting cups and

spoons, antiques, china and red glass, decorating with butterflies, entertaining, getting goofy on plums while making wine. Loma was very gullible to Monk's pranks; thank goodness she had a sense of humor. The one television show that she never missed was the Lawrence Welk Show. She loved to dance, and it wasn't too long ago, at age 89, that she was able to enjoy kicking up her heels a bit at her grandson' wedding. Loma was an orderly person, and the one pet peeve that she harped about was Monk's messy woodshop. Loma cleaned it once and when Monk couldn't find anything because Loma had put everything away, it was the closest Bob had ever seen them to having a fight. Loma was a busy woman, but she always considered others before herself. She was very caring, and thoughtful, giving or sending big boxes of gifts at Christmas and birthdays. When nephew Lee was a youngster in Minnesota, he received his first pair of "cowboy pants" from Aunt Loma and Uncle Monk, Levi jeans. Loma was very sensitive to other people. Nephew Clark recalls Loma setting an example to the family by welcoming his adopting an Asian child into the family. Clark described Loma as an accepting person and also very brave. In 1972, Loma and Monk hosted a Brazilian foreign exchange student. He arrived in Dickinson during the winter. Bob recalls that Durval Ribas Filha was new to the United States, North Dakota, and winter, and although he spoke English, he didn't have much to say at first. He really didn't talk much until Loma got his attention with her food. He was very interested in her tasty delights, and began to open up. Durval graduated that spring with Bob from Beach High School, and went on to be a doctor, specializing in the heart. He has been in touch with the Gilman's for the past 40 years, and he called Loma at the nursing home 5 times during her stay there. He referred to Loma and Monk as Mom and Dad, and signs his correspondence with Bob and Rita as "your Brazilian brother." In one year of living together, a very close relationship was formed that has continued in spite of distance. Loma was a special person and she loved children. Most important to her heart were her grandkids. She and Monk and

Rita never missed driving to wherever Bob lived to attend any occasion or activity of the grandchildren. She loved getting phone calls from them. Board games and cards were a favorite when they were together. Loma loved when they would come to visit and hated when they left. Loma has touched their hearts and lives just as she has touched the lives and hearts of many during her 90 years of living and loving. Loma had the unique quality of finding enjoyment, fulfillment, and happiness in the life she had and with the people in that life. Our world is a better place for having known Loma Mae Gilman. She will be greatly missed.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Loma Mae Gilman*

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December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM