



Mary Jane Gail Olesen

December 9, 1946 - July 2, 2021

Mary Jane Gail Olesen left our world peacefully surrounded by her family on July 2, 2021.

Mary was born on December 9, 1946 in Beach, North Dakota. She was the youngest of four children to Sam and Viola Wilson of the OOO Ranch, just south of Sentinel Butte. She attended school in Beach, North Dakota, graduating from high school in 1964.

Mary married the love of her life, Rodney Olesen, on June 2, 1969. She became an important part of his large family and they quickly became her own. They had four children and she dedicated her life to raising them. They lived throughout western North Dakota for the first 15 years of their marriage. They lived in Casper, Wyoming from 1982-88 where she earned an Associate's Degree in Accounting. In 1988, the family moved south to Bullhead City, Arizona where they lived until 2005. While in Arizona, she spent many years working in property management which she greatly enjoyed. In 2005, they retired and moved back home into her great-grandparents' home. It was her dream to live in "The Big Brown House" in Sentinel Butte.

She loved her family and anybody that knew her, knew they were family. You knew you were at Mary's house because she told you all the rules: "stay as long as you like", "you know where the fridge is", "help yourself to anything you like" and "no grab-assing in the house". She enjoyed baking and expressing her creative side with cake decorating. Her beautiful birthday and wedding cakes brought so much happiness to many people. Her real passion

was people as she loved sitting and visiting, often over a board game or with a deck of cards. Many an evening was spent with somebody getting whooped at canasta, pinochle or joker.

Mary is preceded in death by her father and mother, her two older brothers; John Wilson and Peter Wilson, and her niece, Wendy Keller. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Rodney Olesen, and their four children; Karen Olesen, Robert Olesen with Christine Davis, Mathew Olesen, and Steven Olesen with Mewon Olesen, and her sister Tiny Schillo, along with family like Clark Beach and Diana Moore and many others that called her mom, aunt, sister, and friend.

Services will be held at the Sentinel Butte Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday July 7th in the year of our Lord 2021. A celebration of her life will be held immediately after at the Sentinel Butte pavilion. A light lunch will be served. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please remember her with a smile, a good story, and a game of cards. Arrangements are with Silha Funeral Homes of Beach, North Dakota.

Mary liked to watch the TV series, Little House on the Prairie. One of the episodes featured a eulogy written by Laura Ingalls Wilder. It was her wish that it be shared at this time. It reads as follows:

Remember me with smiles and laughter, for that's the way I'll remember you all.

If you can only remember me with tears, then don't remember me at all.

Cemetery Details

Sentinel Butte Cemetery

Sentinel Butte, ND 58654

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 7. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Sentinel Butte Cemetery
Sentinel Butte, ND 58654

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jane Gail Olesen*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *I graduated with Mary Jane, and though we weren't close friends, I always admired her for her independence. And how secure she seemed in her person. We did have a few conversations that I remember fondly. They are too personal to recount here. As things in this world are connected to the world of spirit, I have been thinking of Mary Jane alot lately , like the last week. And praying for her too. She comes by the independence factor naturally. As her father was one of a kind also. Mary Jane thank you for the gift of living your life to the fullest, as I wish you God Speed and may the angels accompany you to the throne of Almighty God. My sincere condolences to Mary Janes husband and family and friends.*

Jeanne Sokoloski - July 10, 2021 at 07:54 PM



How nice Jean. Hope you are well too.

alicia Heick - July 11, 2021 at 02:15 PM

CG

“ Hello Cousin Rodney and family. So sorry for your loss. My last visit with Mary was at the cousin reunion a few years back by now where she brought all the cake and wore a flowered hat if I'm not mistaken. 😊 I didn't have a lot of opportunity to get to know her on a personal level but the few times we gathered as a family I could see that she was the type of person who wore a perpetual smile on her face, was either laughing or making someone else laugh. The kind of person you could look forward to hanging out with and who would always brighten your day! Hope to see you at this years cousin reunion so I can give you a heartfelt hug!
Sincerely, Buckles

Charlotte Brekhus Gwynn - July 09, 2021 at 09:50 PM



“ Loved this woman. She was always upbeat and made me feel welcome in her world. Val said she was always teasing him and making him smile. You will be missed dear Mary. Prayers for her heartbroken husband Rod and her children... find comfort and peace in her memory.

Carol TescherObrigewitch - July 06, 2021 at 11:33 PM

DJ

“ Doug & Judy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mary Jane Gail Olesen



Doug & Judy Johnson - July 03, 2021 at 05:36 PM

DJ

“ *Maryjane was always smiling when we saw her! Friendly and kind too. She will missed greatly in our Sentinel Butte community.*

Doug & Judy Johnson - July 03, 2021 at 05:35 PM