



Rae Ann Maureen Gilbertson

July 22, 1939 - November 14, 2020

Rae Ann Maureen (Hegge) Gilbertson, daughter of Raymond Henry and Nora Elizabeth (Scholberg) Hegge was born on July 22, 1939 in Ortonville, MN. Her childhood years were spent in Big Stone County, near Ortonville and Clinton, MN. She attended grades one through seven in a one-room country schoolhouse, District #31. From eighth grade onward she attended Ortonville Public School, graduating in 1957. She continued her education at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, earning a bachelor's degree in business education with a Librarian certification in 1961.

Rae Ann began her teaching career in Halstad, MN. It was there that she met her husband and the love of her life, Lionel Dean Gilbertson. They were married on June 12, 1964. Their daughter Beth joined their family in June 1970. During their married years they lived in Shelly, Twin Valley, and Saum, MN, and since September 1988, in Sentinel Butte, ND where Rae Ann became the K-12 librarian for Beach Public Schools, retiring in 2005.

In September 2018, Rae Ann and Lionel entered the Wibaux County Nursing Home where she lived until her death from COVID-19 on November 14, 2020.

Rae Ann is survived by her husband, Lionel; daughter, Beth Hill (John); granddaughters Tessa and Nicole Hill; sister, Janice Rodvi; three nieces, Martha Clinehens (Steve), Miriam Billings (Charlie), and Ann Spurbeck (Andy) and three nephews, Karsten Rodvik, John Rodvik (Lucy), and Chris Duklet (Jill).

Rae Ann was preceded in death by her parents; brother-in-law, Marvin

Rodvik, and brother and sister-in-law Dan and Iris Duklet.

Woven throughout Rae Ann's life were the ongoing threads of marriage, family, music, friendship and faith.

Rae Ann and her husband Lionel were living examples of a marriage rooted in faith and love. They truly liked and loved each other through the good and bad times, setting a wonderful example for their daughter, granddaughters, and all who knew them.

Family was incredibly important to Rae Ann. She worked hard to maintain relationships with all her family members near and far. As long as she was able, she traveled to visit family members and made it a priority to attend life events. When traveling was no longer possible for her, she challenged herself to learn technology and used that knowledge in the best possible way, to stay connected to those she loved.

Music was always a part of Rae Ann's life. She learned to play the piano and the organ at a young age and then used her gift in service to God, having been a church organist for every single congregation of which she was a part. Also, Rae Ann and three of her dear friends formed the Ivory Girls, a musical group with eight hands on two pianos. The Ivory Girls played for many community events and even in a few parades. The memories and the friendships that came from the Ivory Girls were some of Rae Ann's greatest joys.

Friendships were a very important part of Rae Ann's life. She showed her love for her friends in many ways, including hand-made gifts of tie-blankets (last count was around 150) and prayer shawls. Another joyful event that Rae Ann loved was the Friday pot-luck gatherings at Olson's Service Station. She was always on the hunt for a new recipe to try and loved the fellowship and connection that came from those weekly gatherings. The line between "friend" and "family" often blurred for Rae Ann and Lionel. They have many "adopted" children and grandchildren and always loved seeing and spending time with them.

Finally, woven throughout all the aspects of Rae Ann's life was her faith. It was

the foundation upon which her marriage, relationships with friends and family, and her positive attitude were built. Rae Ann faced many physical challenges in her life. She relied upon her faith to meet those challenges with determination and an attitude of gratitude for the gifts she had been given. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed. THANK YOU to all the loving and brave caregivers at the Wibaux County Nursing Home and at Glendive Medical Center.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the Sentinel Butte Hall in Sentinel Butte. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Rae Ann loved to make and give blankets as gifts. In lieu of flowers, if you would like, please bring a blanket of any kind. The blankets will be donated a homeless shelter in the area. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **24.** 1:00 PM (MT)

Sentinel Butte Community Center
Sentinel Butte, ND 58654

Tribute Wall



“ *Rae Ann Maureen Gilbertson*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *67 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Silha Funeral Home - July 23, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *Rae Ann and I grew up together in Big Stone. We belonged to the same 4-H club and for a few years we played piano duets at our festivals. Rae Ann's mom used to give me piano lessons and we ended up graduating a year apart from Ortonville HS. My Deepest Sympathy to Rae Ann's family. Jean McCallum Ross*

Jean Ross - December 13, 2020 at 03:35 PM

MD

“ *Lionell & Family - I am so sorry to hear of RaeAnn's death. RaeAnn and I attended high school together and were good friends. Have many fond memories of being in band and chorus together and our slumber parties. RaeAnn was a wonderful person and friend. My most sincere sympathy.*
Mardis (Hanson) Doll

Mardis Hanson Doll - December 10, 2020 at 01:42 PM

JW

“ *This loss one was that deeply affected me. I cant count how many occasions I spent Easter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas at their house. Every time, they welcomed everyone with a hug and smiles to last a lifetime. I was very blessed to have known such a beautiful soul as RaeAnne.*

Jenna Wojahn - November 25, 2020 at 07:20 PM

PL

“ *Lionel and family...RaeAnn was one of my favorite teachers at Halstad. Skills learned in her classes are still in good use. Reading about her life she had an impact on many.*

Paul Lee - November 24, 2020 at 06:10 PM

JA

“ *I am so sorry for your loss . When they lived near Shelly , they were our neighbors and were well liked by all. Rae Ann was a very nice lady who will be missed by many.*

Julian Aamodt & family

Julian Aamodt - November 24, 2020 at 05:30 PM

JM

“ Beth & family, Loren & I are deeply saddened by the passing of RaeAnn. We feel very Blessed to have known her. Her warm, caring, sweet and friendly personality always made us feel welcomed in her home. We felt very fortunate in so many ways to have crossed paths with them when they sold their house to us 13 1/2 years ago. I regret that we didn't get a chance to visit her this summer...Our deepest sympathies to you all. We will miss her.

Jennifer Morlock - November 20, 2020 at 06:17 PM

DE

“ Dawn Egan lit a candle in memory of Rae Ann Maureen Gilbertson



Dawn Egan - November 19, 2020 at 11:32 AM

KM

“ My sympathy to Lionel and Beth and family for your loss. Dale Lavold and I lived in their upstairs when we were first married in 1967 on the farm by Shelly. She was always so good to us. God bless her memory.

Katherine Mickelson - November 18, 2020 at 11:48 AM