



Oats & Mo as Junior Bride and Groom  
September 1943



*In Loving Memory*  
CELEBRATING A LIFE

**Funeral Service**

McPherson Free Methodist Church  
McPherson, Kansas  
Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 10:30 AM

**Officiants**

Rev. Tom Griffith ~ Rev. Tom Mayse  
Rev. Dallas Burgeson

**Music**

Orion Osborne "Life is Like a Mountain Railroad"  
Greg Fields "It is Well"  
Congregational Hymn "I'll Fly Away" #554  
Rivercrest Free Methodist Choir  
Recessional: Hallelujah Chorus (please stand)  
Jennie Hall, organ/piano

**Casket Bearers**

Jordan Bobert ~ Jason Gillette ~ Justin Gillette  
Katie Odermann ~ Espen Traub ~ Janel Tucker

**Ushers**

Dale Burge ~ Ken Luginsland

**Final Resting Place**

McPherson Cemetery

**Memorial Donations**

Memorial donations may be made to the McPherson Free Methodist Church, the Gillette Scholarship Fund at Central Christian College of Kansas, or Oakdale Christian Academy c/o Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 N. Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

**Appreciation**

Marilyn's family wishes to express sincere appreciation for your prayers and kindness, evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence at this service.

*Stockham Family Funeral Home*



*In Loving Memory*  
**Marilyn I. Odermann**  
September 22, 1940 - June 10, 2024



## *A Celebration of Life* *Marilyn Ione Odermann*

Marilyn Ione (Gillette) Odermann, affectionately known as Mo, was born to Clayton and Helen Gillette on September 22, 1940 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The family moved to Wessington Springs, SD in 1943 where she attended elementary school. She went on to attend Wessington Springs College (WSC c'60) which included high school.

Marilyn started dating Ellis Odermann (Oats) when she was a freshman and he was a junior in high school. Their families were good friends, and they knew each other most of their lives. They were a junior bride and groom in a wedding when Ellis was 5 years old and Marilyn was 3 years old. They were married September 9, 1961 in the chapel at WSC. They both worked for WSC and Wessington Springs Academy (WSA).

Their son, Jeffrey, was born October 9, 1965, and three years later after WSA closed, the family moved to McPherson, Kansas to become a part of the Central College family. Their daughter, Rochelle, was born July 23, 1969, and the family lived above the Winslow family in the old Elms House, where the McPherson Free Methodist Church currently sits. In 1970, Ellis built his family a home on Central Avenue where they lived until 1980 when he built another home on Pine Court. Marilyn lived there until May 2022, and the family currently operates the property as an Airbnb called "Oats & Mo's Place".

Alongside her husband, Marilyn was a faithful employee of Central Christian College of Kansas working there for nearly 40 years, only taking a few years off to be home with her children before they were in school full-time. The couple was inducted into the Academy of Achievers and they retired together in 2000. Marilyn enjoyed her role serving in the business office with Ellis, but she offered so much more to the college community as a dorm parent, class sponsor, and honorary mom to many students who passed through the halls and who she invited into her home.

Marilyn was an active member of the McPherson Free Methodist Church where she taught the kindergarten Sunday school class for numerous years, sang in the choir, played organ, and supported many people in the church as well as missionaries with her fervent prayers and financial generosity. She also served the McPherson community in many ways including volunteering to help adults improve their English skills; being involved on a team to rehabilitate a paralyzed man; getting groceries for and visiting the elderly; and helping in her daughter-in-law Sue's Pre-K classroom.

Marilyn placed the highest priority on her faith, followed by her love of family. Ellis was her "one and only" and they enjoyed a 53-year marriage until he went to heaven in 2014. Marilyn joined him; her parents and grandparents; and her sisters, Eloise and Rosalie, on June 10, 2024.

Survivors include: a son, Jeffrey Odermann (Sue) of McPherson; a daughter, Rochelle Traub (Kevin) of Middleville, MI; grandchildren Brittany Bobert (Jordan), Jillette Odermann, Katie Odermann, Espen Traub, Sierra Traub, and Gracyn Traub; great-grandchildren Mason Zagorach and Adilyn Bobert; brother Gaylord Gillette (Vicki); brother-in-law Dave Jeffery (Coleen); sisters-in-law Lois Huff (Tim), Vicki Odermann, and Amy Little; and nieces and nephews.

The family would like to give special thanks to Brenda Foster of Harmony Home and the staff of Brookdale and Gentiva Hospice for their care of Marilyn.

Memorial donations may be given to the McPherson Free Methodist Church, the Gillette Scholarship Fund at Central Christian College of Kansas, or Oakdale Christian Academy in loving memory of Marilyn.



*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" — Matthew 22:37-39*