

*Virginia Ann (Rustad) Spear*, 83, of Gentilly, MN, passed away at her home Tuesday, November 28, 2023, comforted by her loving family gathered at her bedside.

Virginia was born on March 16, 1940, one of seven children of the union of Orville and Orella (Hedberg) Rustad. Sadly, her twin sister, Maren, died as an infant. Virginia, lovingly known as Ginger, was baptized and confirmed in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and began her elementary education in the Cathedral School. In her junior year of high school, she met classmate, Duane Spear. He asked her to the prom, she said yes, and as Duane said, "That was that". After graduation from Cathedral High School with the Class of 1958 Ginger moved to the Twin Cities to work in the accounting department of Minneapolis Transportation while Duane enlisted in the US Air Force. Upon her return to Crookston, she and Duane were united in marriage on April 23, 1960 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The next 20 plus years would see the births of 4 amazing children: Brenda, Michael, Renee, and Maren. It also meant calling Air Force Bases throughout the US home, including Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ, Vandenberg AFB at Lompoc, CA, Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE, and Sheppard AFB Wichita Falls, TX. After Sheppard, Ginger and her daughters returned to Crookston for 2 years while Duane was sent to Vietnam. Following his safe return stateside the reunited family was off to Hill AFB in Ogden, UT followed by Duane's last assignment prior to retirement at the Minot AFB, Minot, ND. Throughout all these moves Ginger was Super Mom as she and Duane raised their children in many loving homes and she settled their family into each one within 3 days. Many friendships were formed with other Air Force families and to this day have proved to be lifelong. While at Minot AFB, Ginger worked as a lunch lady in the elementary school, and upon their return to Gentilly she was employed in the Polk County Auditor's Office until her retirement.

Ginger enjoyed spending quality time with Duane and their growing family while she created many traditions centered around the holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, camping outings, antique shopping with her girls, and other milestones that meant so much to them all. She liked to spend time reading, quilting, and knitting. She made quilts with lots of love for each of her grandchildren and also knitted newborn caps for babies in the NICU. Ginger had a heart to help loved ones and friends whose families were going through challenging times by taking in and caring for their children. She was a devoted member of the St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gentilly, the Catholic Daughters, American Legion Auxiliary, and looked forward to lunches with her Red Hat Society friends.

Virginia is lovingly survived by Duane, her husband and best friend of 63 years; their 3 daughters and sons-in-law: Brenda and Brett Hegarty of West Fargo, ND, Renee and Bill Tate of Crookston, MN, and Maren and Patrick Schilling of Fargo, ND; 12 grandchildren: Katie (Dylan) Engel, Timothy Hegarty, Nikki Hegarty, Danielle Tate, Michael (Madison) Tate, Montell (Marie) Tate, Emilee Tate, Blake Addison, Ciena Addison, Brandon Schilling, Gabriella Schilling, and Michaela Schilling; 9 great-grandchildren: Carter Hegarty, Kassia Hegarty, Eliana Robinson-Auger, Oaklynn Hegarty, Xander Spickenreuther, Kamia Engel, Gabrielle Engel, Brooklyn Tate, and Tucker Tate. She also leaves 4 siblings: Gary and Mickie Rustad of Phoenix, AZ, Kenny and Rose Rustad of West Fargo, ND, Dave and Deb Rustad of St. Hilaire, MN, and Cheryl and Kenny Pazdernik of Ada, MN; together with several nieces and nephews, extended family, and many friends both near and far.

Virginia was preceded in death by an infant son, Michael Duane; her parents, Orville and Orella (Hedberg) Rustad; infant twin sister, Maren; brother, Bobby Rustad; and parents-in-law, Jesse and Florence Spear.

*Forever treasured by the memory of  
Virginia Ann (Rustad) Spear.*



*In Loving  
Memory*

IN LOVING MEMORY

*Virginia Ann (Rustad) Spear*

March 16, 1940 November 28, 2023

*The Prayer Service and Memory Sharing*

Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Crookston, Minnesota  
Led by Msgr. David Baumgartner  
Matt Proulx, Musician

*The Mass of Christian Burial Honoring Ginger's Life*

Monday, December 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Crookston, Minnesota  
Msgr. David Baumgartner, Celebrant  
Matt Proulx, Musician

*Casket Bearers*

Katie Engel	Michael Tate	Ciena Addison
Timothy Hegarty	Montell Tate	Brandon Schilling
Nikki Hegarty	Emilee Tate	Gabriella Schilling
Danielle Tate	Blake Addison	Michaela Schilling

*Honorary Casket Bearers*

Carter Hegarty	Oaklynn Hegarty	Gabrielle Engel
Kassia Hegarty	Xander Spickenreuther	Brooklyn Tate
Eliana Robinson-Auger	Kamia Engel	Tucker Tate

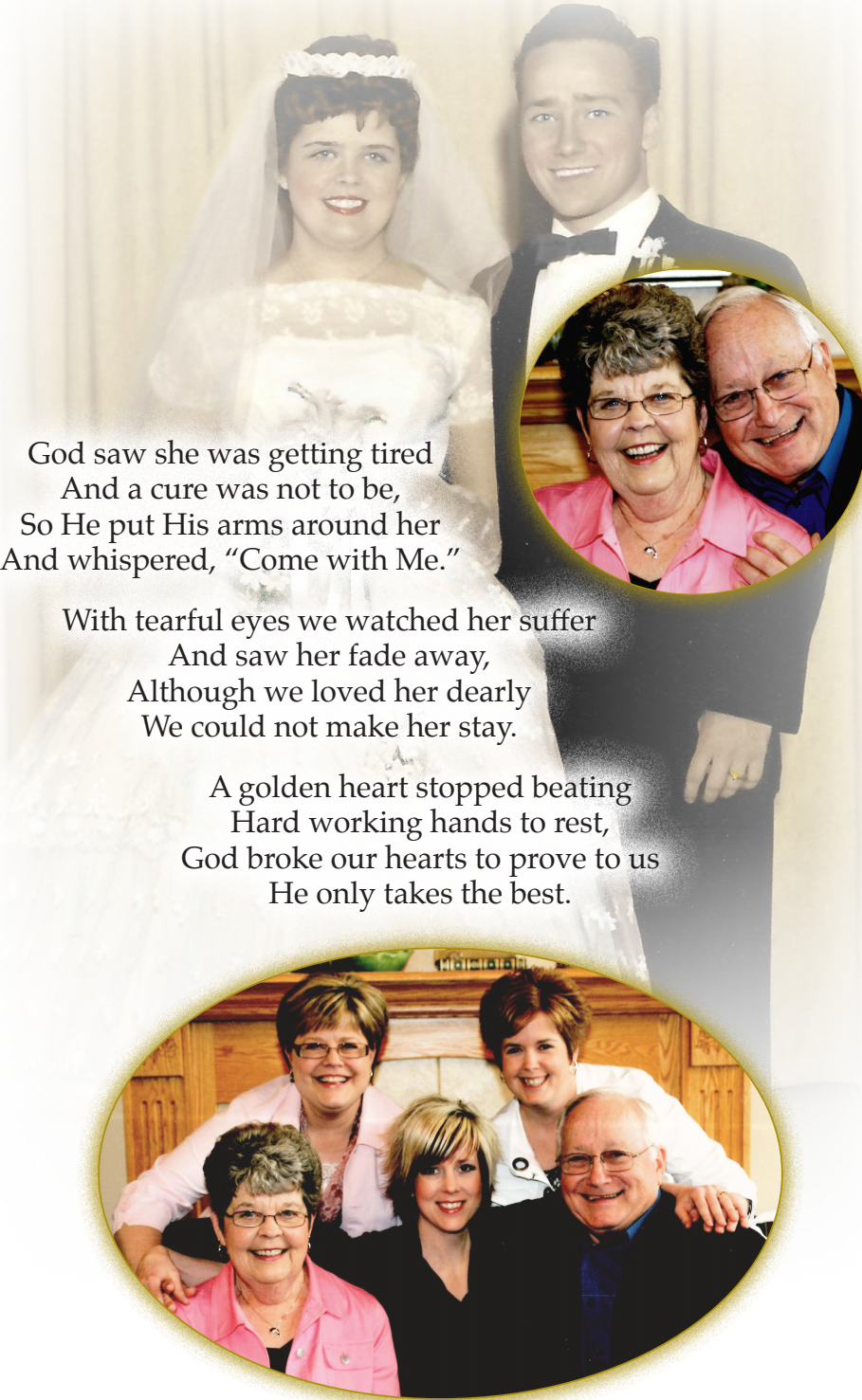
*Graveside Prayers*

Calvary Cemetery  
Crookston, Minnesota

The colors of the carnations in the spray of flowers on Ginger's casket are in remembrance of the flowers that Duane gave his bride for every one of their 63 anniversaries. The white honors their son, Michael; the 3 dark pink are for their 3 daughters; the 4 dark blue for the grandsons; the 5 light pink for the granddaughters; the 3 light green for their 3 great-grandsons; and the 6 purple for their great-granddaughters.

*We would like to offer heartfelt thanks to everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy which have meant so much to us. Thank you also for your presence, whether in body or spirit, as we Celebrate the Life of our very wonderful*  
Wife – Mom – Two Generations Who Called Her Grandma – Sister - Aunt  
Love,

*Duane – Brenda and Brett – Reneè and Bill – Maren and Patrick  
The Grandkids and Great Grandkids –  
Gary and Mickie – Kenny and Rose – Dave and Deb – Cheryl and Kenny  
Nieces and Nephews*



God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around her  
And whispered, "Come with Me."

With tearful eyes we watched her suffer  
And saw her fade away,  
Although we loved her dearly  
We could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating  
Hard working hands to rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.



REMEMBERING

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March 16, 1940 - November 28, 2023

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Crookston, Minnesota

Led by Msgr. David Baumgartner

Matt Proulx, Musician

“Amazing Grace” #614

Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

“How Great Thou Art” #694

CELEBRATING

*Virginia Ann Spear*

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*Scriptures*

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Psalm 23

2 Corinthians 5: 1-9

Matthew 19: 13-15

*Special Music*

“Amazing Grace” #642

Psalm 23: “Shepherd Me, O God” #642

“Prayer of St. Francis” #679

“I Am the Bread of Life” #493

“Song of Farewell” #442

“On Eagle's Wings” #606