



Rae Arliss Reiersen was born on September 25, 1934 in Fosston, Minnesota, an only child to parents Arthur “Spot” Reiersen and Esther (Ekeberg) Reiersen. Rae Arliss was baptized and confirmed at Kingo Lutheran Church of Fosston and attended school in Fosston graduating with the class of 1952 from Fosston High School. While in high school, Rae was active in many activities and organizations. Her favorites being a majorette in the marching band, and a cheerleader for all sports.

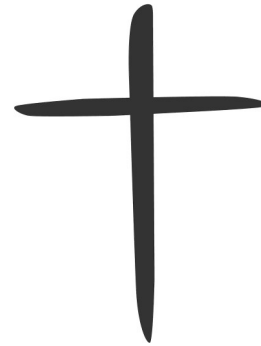
Rae Arliss had an extraordinary life. Growing up as a Scandinavian farm girl in rural northern Minnesota she was able to receive a college education, at a time when not many young women in her community had that opportunity. She attended Stephens College, a private women’s college, in Columbia, Missouri. Graduating with the Class of 1954 with an Associate of Science degree in Aeronautics. She continued her education at the University of Illinois where she graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Health Education. Rae became an aviation flight instructor with a commercial rating and owned her own airplane.

While student teaching in Illinois she met a newly minted career U.S. Marine Corps officer and ordained Baptist minister. Rae Arliss and Second Lieutenant James Murray were married at Kingo Lutheran Church on June 22, 1957. Together they traveled to duty stations across the country and raised two children along the way. One of those duty stations allowed Rae to serve as a congressional aide in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington D.C. for Congresswoman Coya Knutson of Minnesota. When her husband was deployed overseas, she kept the “home fires burning” and taught physical education in the local schools while caring for her children. Upon her husband’s retirement from the Marine Corps after 26 years of service he became President of Oakland City University in Indiana and for the next 33 years she was not only “First Lady” but continued to teach physical education and coach women’s athletics at the university.

Throughout all this time she traveled the world along with her husband, friends and extended family. Upon her retirement from Oakland City University, Rae Arliss received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the University Board of Trustees in appreciation for her 33 years of service to the institution.

After her husband James passed away in 2012 Rae Arliss left Indiana to return to her hometown in Minnesota where her life’s journey began. She had quite a life and she knew it. A commercial pilot and flight instructor, high school and collegiate physical educator and coach, Marine Officer’s wife, congressional aide, university First Lady, Baptist preacher’s wife, and world traveler. Yet if you asked her what her greatest achievements were, she would tell you simply being a loving mother of 2, grandmother of 4, and great-grandmother of 6.

Rae Arliss Reiersen Murray is survived by her two children and their families. Michael and Doris Murray of Fosston, Minnesota and Robyn Rae and Christopher Speltz of Austin, Texas. Her granddaughters Heather (Chris Kluge), Megan (Jon Hogg), Elizabeth Rae (Ben Gunnarson) and Olivia. Her great-grandchildren Aiden, Aubree Rae, Hailey, Ryan, Quinn and Colette.



*Jesus said,*

*“I am the resurrection and the life;  
he who believes in me,  
though he die, yet shall he live,  
and whoever lives and believes  
in me shall never die.”*



*John 11: 25.26*

## Funeral Service

Monday, April 29, 2024 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Kingo Lutheran Church

Fosston, Minnesota

## Officiating

Rev. John Ragan

## Organist

Tammy Ragan

## Congregational Hymns

“Precious Memories”

“Just As I Am”

## Honorary Pallbearers

Grandchildren

Heather Kluge ~ Megan Hogg ~ Elizabeth Speltz

Olivia Speltz



Great - Grandchildren

Aiden Hogg ~ Aubree Hogg ~ Hailey Kluge

Ryan Kluge ~ Quinn Hogg ~ Colette Hogg

## Active Pallbearers

Michael Murray ~ Christopher Speltz ~ Christopher Kluge

Jonathan Hogg ~ Warren Affeldt ~ Michael Affeldt

John Dunn ~ James Palubicki

## Place of Rest

Kingo Lutheran Cemetery

Fosston, Minnesota



*Please join the family for coffee and fellowship after the service  
in the church basement.*

