

Patricia A. "Patty" Jessen, 97, died March 4, 2024. Patty was born on June 24, 1926, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, the third of six children of William "Bill" and Hazel Norman. She spent the first twelve years of her life in Chadron, Nebraska, where the extended Norman family included 52 first cousins. Bill bought what is now known as the Norman Ranch in 1938 and moved the family and a band of sheep to the new ranch southeast of Gillette. Patty attended Campbell County High School in Gillette, Wyoming, and spent one year at Chadron State University in Chadron, Nebraska, before returning to teach school in Rozet, Wyoming, during World War II. Patty married Jes R. Jessen on September 29, 1945. Patty and Jes spent six months in Chicago following their marriage, where Jes completed his service in the Navy and Patty worked as telephone operator for the Brown Paper Company. The couple returned to Campbell County and joined Patty's parents in operating and, later, purchasing the Norman Ranch, which remains in the family. Patty served for many years on the Campbell County Parks and Recreation Board, the Campbell County Library Foundation Board, and the Youth Emergency Services Board. She was a passionate advocate for reproductive rights and instrumental in establishing and expanding Campbell County's reproductive health services. She also was an advocate for arts and culture. She helped to establish the Campbell County Library art purchasing program as well as volunteering for the Community Concert Series, which brought many notable artists to Gillette over the years. Patty leaves behind her three children, Robert N. "Nick" Jessen, his wife, Elaine White Jessen, and their children and grandchildren, Heather J. Wilcox (husband, Andrew Wilcox, and children, Braxten Wilcox and Rylan Wilcox), Bobbie Pratt (husband, Scott Pratt, and children, Jessen and Preston Pratt), and Mackenzie W. Jessen (husband, Michael Troha, and daughter, Rune Troha); Susan L. Hladky, and her children, grandchildren, and great granddaughter, J. Patrick Hladky (wife, Jean Hladky, and children, Drayson (wife, Cassidy and daughter, Parker), Halle, Raimi, and Meg Hladky) and Paul A. Hladky (wife, Andrea Hladky, and daughters, Rylee and Kate Hladky); and Polly B. Jessen (daughters, Margot and Jacqueline Jessen-Hegelbach). She is preceded in death by Jes, her five siblings, Susan's late husband, James J. Hladky, and daughter, Tammy M. Hladky, and Polly's late husband, Edward B. Cordes, and infant twins, Jes and Cecile Jessen-Hegelbach. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers can be made to the Youth Emergency Services House or Gillette Reproductive Health. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel 210 West 5th Street, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at www.gillettememorialchapel.com



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Patricia "Patty" Ann Jessen

JUNE 24, 1926-MARCH 4, 2024



Rita Mashak Guy Casablanca
Corrine Thompson
Funeral Service-Monuments-
Advance Planning-Cremation-
Lending Library, Learning to say
goodbye, children's tour

Please scan the QR code to share
a loving memory or tribute.



My mother ...

*Always gave good advice
Was always reading a book (or several)
Always had an opinion, but was rarely judgmental
Said never ask your children if they did something if
you know they did
Told us all to get a saleable skill
Loved world history and British royalty
Could hook a sheep from horseback
Could set her book down at 11:15 a.m. and serve a
four-course dinner for 20 men at noon
Loved good clothes and classical music
Had a gimlet eye
Loved politics and a good debate
Always had coffee and cookies for any visitor
Had a gift for storytelling and a great sense of humor
Prepared us to go wherever we wanted to go in life*

My grandmother ...

*Wanted to know what was on your mind and
expected an answer
Was the ranch, frozen sugar cookies, stone stencils,
pugs, gratitude speeches, clasping hands, strawberry
blonde
Taught me to fold fitted sheets
Made the best angel food cake with strawberries and
icing
Was much larger than such a small woman should be
Is the reason I play the piano
Had an infectious laugh! It always brought a smile
to anyone who heard it.
Had an outsized influence on my sense of style, my
proclivity for intense conversations, and my desire to
seek fulfillment in life
Always made me laugh
Was brutally honest
Asked meaningful questions and made me feel like
what I said mattered
Was proud of the beautiful family she made*

In Loving Memory Of

Patricia Ann Jessen

Memorial Service

11 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2024

*First Presbyterian Church
Gillette, Wyoming*

Officiant

Reverend Tom Reynolds

Speakers

Nick Jessen

Patrick Hladky

Jean Hladky

Pianist

Ida Sneed

Vocalists

Brenda Holden

Todd Holden



*A luncheon will be served following the service.
The family invites everyone to join them.*