

23rd Psalm

THE LORD IS MY *Shepherd*: I SHALL NOT WANT.
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES:
He leadeth me BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL: HE LEADETH ME IN THE
PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
for His names sake.
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE
SHADOW OF DEATH, *I will fear no evil.*
FOR THOU ART WITH ME: THY ROD AND
THY STAFF *they comfort me.*
THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE
PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES:
THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL:
my cup runneth over.
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW
ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: AND I WILL
DWELL IN THE *house of the Lord forever.*

*Celebrating The Life Of
Mary W. Wilken*



*March 12, 1940
October 12, 2022*



Mary Wilhemina (Van Ballegooyen) Wilken was born at home on the farm north of Oak Grove State Park, north of Hawarden, Iowa, on March 12, 1940, the daughter of Andrew and Alice (Bryson) Van Ballegooyen. She attended country school through the 8th grade and freshman year at Sioux Center High School. She helped out on the family farm northeast of Ireton, Iowa.

Mary married William "Billy" Wilken, Sr. on November 10, 1958 in Minnesota. They lived on farms near Chatsworth, Iowa, Alcester, South Dakota, Akron, Iowa and then near McNally, Iowa. Mary had a love of being out in the fields and driving the tractors. She started babysitting the neighbor's children while living near McNally and also got a bean walking crew together. Mary liked bringing lunch, usually sandwiches, cookies, Kool Aid, and coffee out to her husband and the other hired hands. She cared for her four children and made sure they were taken care of and also helped Billy when needed on the farm. She worked at the North Forty Restaurant in Craig as a dishwasher, and later worked at Wee Care DayCare in Hawarden.

Mary had a green thumb with growing flowers and always having a big garden. She would can her vegetables, freeze her sweet corn, store her potatoes, and raised chickens and sold the eggs. Mary loved to sew and do crafts. Her favorite singers were Kitty Wells and Patsy Cline. Mary and Billy spent many Saturday nights at the Brunsville Legion Hall at dances doing square dancing and polkas, after eating steak at a steak house. Mary enjoyed having coffee in the morning with her girlfriends in Hawarden and Ireton. She loved to have birthday parties, being together with her family on Sundays, and having Christmas at the farmhouse near McNally. She loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Mary had a strong faith in the Lord and was a member of the Lebanon Christian Reformed Church until she got married, and then they became members of the Associated Church in Hawarden in 1958.

Her husband Billy died on December 22, 2001. Mary died on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at Akron Care Center at the age of 82 years.

Mary is survived by her four children, Kathleen and Bennie Vonk of Ireton, Connie Snyder of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Cindy and Casey Havelaar of Hudson, South Dakota, and William Wilken, Jr. of Hawarden; 5 grandchildren, Marie and Tim Juzek, Katie Magnison, Jason Snyder, Emily Snyder, and Ashley and Spencer Smith; 10 great-grandchildren, Ethan, Shaylawn, Xander, Brextyn, Christian, Jade, Alex, Liam, Kipton, and Deklan; her siblings, Dorothy Patcheck of Modesto, California, Walter Van Ballegooyen of Alcester, South Dakota, and Nancy Van Ballegooyen of Beresford, South Dakota; and Billy's family, sister, Jean Carlson of Bellevue, Nebraska.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Billy; daughter, Diane Ruth of 3 months; siblings, 4 brothers, Henry "Hank" and wife Dreaka, John "Johnny" and wife Grada, Joe "Johannes" and wife Kathy, and Robert "Butch"; and 2 brothers-in-law, Lee Patcheck and Ken Carlson.

In Loving Memory Of
Mary Wilhemina Wilken

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 p.m. Monday, October 17, 2022

Porter Funeral Home

Hawarden, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Pastor Judith Wascher

Associated Church of Hawarden

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art" Elvis Presley

"Old Rugged Cross" Johnny Cash

"Amazing Grace" Alan Jackson

HONORARY CASKET BEARER

Jason Snyder

CASKET BEARERS

Nathan Van Ballegooyen ~ Bryon Van Ballegooyen
Rocky Van Ballegooyen ~ Ethan Van Wyhe ~ Jeff Eilts

INTERMENT

Grace Hill Cemetery

Hawarden, Iowa