



Gayle Jean Smith, 59, Mandan, died unexpectedly on May 13, 2018.

Gayle was born July 5, 1958, in Watertown, South Dakota, to Warren and Alice (Pekelder) Larson. Her family moved numerous times throughout SD and MN with her father's truck driving job. A mischievous young girl, Gayle attended most of her school years in Marshal, MN and then finished her senior year, graduating from Mandan High School in 1977. From a young age, Gayle had a love for horses and dogs and would make a home for any stray that came her way. In 1981 Gayle married Lawrence Ivan Sletten in Mandan and they made their home

in Thief River Falls, MN where they had two children, Shari and Kyle. Lawrence died in 1986 from leukemia and Gayle returned to Mandan with her children. A hardworking and dedicated mother, she worked at her kids' school for several years and later discovered her great passion for cooking while working at the Mandan Hospital. This is where she met Richard "Rick" Smith and they were married on November 17, 1995, making their home west of Mandan. This marriage gave Gayle two step-children she loved as her own, Tia and Jeremiah, and in 1996 Gayle and Richard had a daughter, Mariah. Gayle continued to enjoy her jobs as a cook in Bismarck-Mandan, most recently at The Centre in Mandan. A generous and selfless person, Gayle was always willing to help out in any way she could and always said she was only a phone call away. She enjoyed gardening and also traveling with her family to historical parks across the upper Midwest. Gayle's greatest love was for her six grandchildren. A beautiful woman with a kind and caring heart, Gayle will be missed by those who knew and loved her. This loss leaves a tremendous void, but as Gayle always said, we'll take it "one day at a time."

Blessed to have shared her life is her husband of 22 years, Rick Smith, Mandan; children, Shari (Levi) Schmidt, Mandan, Kyle Sletten (fiancée, Alisha Holtan) Mandan, Tia Smith, Fargo, and Mariah Smith, Mandan; 6 grandchildren, Mason and Chase Schmidt, Kylie and Riley Holtan, Kambrie Sletten, and Hermione Smith; her mother, Alice Larson, Mandan; two brothers, Gary (Donna) Larson, New Salem and Rodney Larson, Mandan; and mother-in-law, Edna Smith, Bismarck.

Gayle was preceded in death by her first husband, Lawrence Sletten; her father, Warren Larson; step-son, Jeremiah Smith; and father-in-law, Virgil Smith.

Please go to www.BuehlerLarson.com to share memories of Gayle.

Memorials are preferred to the family.



You never said I'm leaving,
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knew why.
A million times I needed you,
A million times I cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life I loved you dearly,
In death I love you still.
In my heart you hold a place,
That no one will ever fill.
It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn't go alone.
For part of me went with you,
The day God took you home.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gayle Jean Smith

JULY 5, 1958 ~ MAY 13, 2018

Farewell, Dear Mother

Somewhere in my heart beneath all my grief and pain,

Is a smile I still wear at the sound of your dear name.

The precious word is 'MOTHER,' she was my world you see,
But now my heart is breaking cause she's no longer here with me.

God chose her for His angel to watch me from above,

To guide me and advise me and know that I'm still loved.

The day she had to leave me when her life on earth was through,

God had better plans for her, for this, I surely knew.

When I think of her kind heart and all those loving years,

My memories surround me and I can't hold back the tears.

She truly was my best friend, someone I could confide in,

She always had a tender touch and a warm and gentle grin.

I want to thank you Mother for teaching me so well,

And though the time has come that I must bid you this farewell.

I'll remember all you've taught me and make you proud you'll see.

Thank you my Dear Mother for all the love you showed me.

Although you've left this earth and now you've taken flight,

I know that you are here with me each morning, noon, and night.

Prayer Service

Thursday, May 17, 2018; 7:00 PM

Funeral Service

Friday, May 18, 2018; 1:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Avenue

Bismarck, North Dakota

Officiant

Rev. Deanna Reikow

Musician

Scott Houser

Prelude

Announcements

Processional

"How Great Thou Art" by Elvis Presley

Opening Prayer

Words of Comfort

Scripture Reading

Lamentations 3:22-26

Matthew 6:25-34

Memories of Mom

Mariah Smith

Message

Special Music

"Sissy's Song" by Alan Jackson

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

The Commendation

The Benediction

*Recessional Hymn #280

"Amazing Grace"

*Committal will take place at Sunset Memorial Gardens,
immediately following the funeral service.*

*The family invites you to join them for food and fellowship at the
church following the burial.*