

The Life of Diane Johnson

Diane Johnson, 74, passed away very peacefully on June 7th, 2020, at her home in Groton surrounded by her family after a strong fight with cancer.

Betty "Diane" Wolery was born on June 5, 1946, in Havre, Montana, to Wayne and Betty (LaValley) Wolery. She was the first of 4 children. She grew up with her loving family on a ranch near Joplin, Montana, and graduated from Joplin High School in 1964 as the Valedictorian of her class. After graduation, she continued her education at the Medical Institute of Minnesota where she received a degree as a laboratory technician. She was also the Valedictorian of her lab tech class. While living in Minnesota, Diane met her good friend, Barb Morris. The friendship proved to be quite fruitful as Diane married Barb's brother, Roger. Diane had been invited to the Johnson farm for the Easter holiday. Diane and Barb arrived via train in Aberdeen that year. Roger was given the job of picking them up at the station that evening and here the next chapter of her life began. Diane completed her internship in Rochester, MN. She married Roger on February 26th, 1967, in Joplin, Montana. They began their married life on the Johnson farm north of Groton, SD, and were blessed with 3 children: Shane, Darcy, and Matt. She worked at the Webster and Britton hospitals until the decision was made to stay home and raise the children. Over the years, she worked at Kolb Egg Company, Dakota Quilts, and also owned/ operated a ceramic shop in Claremont and Signs N More in Groton. Prior to her health declining, Diane was an associate at Wal-Mart. Through all the years on the farm, Diane was Roger's right-hand man- helping with the crops, cattle, custom crop spraying business, and gravel business.



Diane was a member of Augustana Lutheran Church, rural Claremont, before transferring to Emmanuel Lutheran in Groton. She was active in Bible study and the Women's Circle. Diane loved gardening and her flower beds, crafting of all kinds and was one of the founders of the Groton Booster Club. She loved traveling through the years with Roger, attending the grandchildren's events, spending any time with family. Diane was able to spend time with all her kids, grandkids and great grandchildren her last week of life. The babies could always put a smile on her face, even on the gloomiest of days.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the amazing staff of Prairie Heights (Manor Care) who always treated Diane as family during her numerous rehab stays through the years and the loving staff from Avera Hospice who were able to provide support to her and the family during her final days.

Celebrating her life is her husband, Roger, of Groton; children, Shane Johnson (Angie Sombke) of Claremont, Darcy Albrecht (Patrick Cavanaugh) of Aberdeen, Matt (Tanya) Johnson of Groton, her grandchildren: Samantha (Corey) Bachmeier, of Aberdeen, Shanine Anya (Jamie Morris) of Claremont, Marqelle Albrecht (Michael Reid) of Mapleton, ND, Jade (Mikia) Albrecht, of West Fargo, ND, Maycee (Tyler) Hatzenbeller, of Aberdeen, Jeric Albrecht (Hailey Elsen) of Rapid City, Peyton, Trey, Aeydon, and Deylon Johnson, of Groton. Diane is also survived by her great-grandchildren: Oliver Anya, Jace, Hudson & Taya Morris, Julian Bachmeier, Vaela Albrecht, and Regis Hatzenbeller, her siblings, Ken (Nyda) Wolery of Billings, Montana, Paul (Nancy) Wolery of Inverness, Montana, and Helen (Scott) Turner of Portland, Oregon, her sisters-in-law Diana Ehrenberg of Rapid City and Barb Morris of Britton, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Wayne and Betty, in-laws, Lambert and Florence Johnson, brother-in laws, Bill Ehrenberg and Dick Morris.

Services for Diane will be at 2 PM on Saturday, June 13th, at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The message will be delivered by her granddaughter, Marqelle Albrecht. Burial will follow at a later date in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

With the concerns regarding Covid, the family is encouraging the public to attend visitation on Friday, June 12th, from 5 PM -7 PM at the chapel.

Casket Bearers will be her grandsons.