

In Memory of
Joyce Gebhardt

Date of Birth
June 20, 1928

Date of Death
March 12, 2019

Funeral Service

11:00 A.M. Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Officiating: Pastor Jordan Andreasen

Organist: Phyllis Yeske

Soloist: Wayne Fiechtner
"How Great Thou Art"

Casket Bearers

Matt Gebhardt	Kristen Gonsoir
Adam Gerber	Stan Gonsoir
Russ Gerber	Tim Gonsoir
Joellen Miller	Damien Krueger

Place of Burial

Sunset Memorial Gardens
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Arrangements by

Hoven Funeral Chapel
Ellendale, North Dakota

Nevertheless, she persisted...

Mom was born at a time when using the word "spunky" to describe a woman meant you were talking about a cowgirl; it was before the term "feisty woman" was a meme.

As the granddaughter of a Norwegian immigrant, she was steeped in the values of that culture: keep your head down, conduct an honest and hardworking life, and never toot your own horn.

There's nothing in that list that speaks directly to the quality of resilience; but as we all know, life has a way of bringing forth a person's true character. And nevertheless, Mom persisted:

- When she suffered traumatic injury in a car accident, she fought back and lived on to raise a family.
- When at age 38 she suddenly found herself a widow and single mother of 4, she dug in to keep us together: clothed, fed, educated, and successfully launched into the world.
- When – although she married a younger man she thought would outlive her – she found herself alone again as a widow, she expanded her network and community involvement.
- When she returned to Aberdeen only to find that her friends and colleagues of decades earlier were largely passed, she didn't let it get her down. She instead found a new community – Penning the Past – at the Senior Center who helped her find her place again.
- When her heart failed to sustain her kidneys, she willed herself through rehabilitative therapy to stay alive and finish her book.

We also know that for every yang, there's a yin. Mom's determination wasn't as useful when it came to taking away the car keys! Or convincing her that it was time to switch from a cane to a rollator (which she loved once she tried it). Eventually her adaptability and good humor won out; she came to realize that our suggestions were based in a unified commitment to keep her as safe as she'd kept us. Thank you for sharing and celebrating Mom's life with us.

Denise, DeVern, Clyde, and Roxanne

Joyce Gebhardt, age 90 of Aberdeen, SD died peacefully on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen. Gladysce Joyce, the daughter of Joseph and Helen (Lohre) Svalstad, was born on June 20, 1928, in rural Roberts County, SD. Following her graduation from Sisseton High School, Joyce attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD long enough to be certified to teach elementary school. She taught at One Road Township school, and then in Sisseton, SD where she met and married Wallace Gerber. They began farming near Peever, SD eventually moving to a farm outside of Columbia, SD. They were blessed with four children before Wallace's premature death in 1966 at age 40. Joyce moved her family to Aberdeen following Wallace's death, and she continued to teach at O.M. Tiffany Elementary with a year's sabbatical to complete her bachelor's degree at Northern State College. In 1975 she married Gerhardt "Tiny" Gebhardt and joined him in farming near Monango, ND. They retired to Ellendale in 2006, where Tiny died in 2008. In each of her adopted communities, Joyce was an active contributor to religious and social life. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, and most of all, music. She valued education, and with Tiny established a scholarship for Ellendale high school seniors through the North Dakota Community Foundation (<https://tinyurl.com/yyyzlk3>). Joyce was a life-long scribe who recorded events in her own life as well as those of people close to her. She moved back to Aberdeen in 2013, where she discovered the Senior Center's *Penning the Past* group and in 2017 compiled her memories into a book, *My Story*. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents and two husbands. She is survived by her children Denise (Jon) Beusen, DeVern (Cathy) Gerber, Clyde (Nancy) Gerber, Roxanne (Allen) Heiden; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; sisters Marjorie Krueger and Verna Foss; brothers Duane (Judy) Svalstad, Darrell (Judy) Svalstad, and Dennis Svalstad; brothers-in-law Darwin (Karen) Gebhardt and Quentin Gerber; sisters-in-law Beth (Myron) Walth, Jeanine Gerber, and Doris (Roger) Laubach; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In Loving Memory



Joyce Gebhardt

1928 - 2019