

Martha Teresia O'Neill

Martha O'Neill, age 86 of Martin, SD, passed away on Oct. 3, 2016. She was born on Oct. 12, 1929 at her parents' farm house in Dodge (near Rogers), NE to Frank and Anna (Burger) Risse. She joined her older sister; Elsie; of 22 months of age. In March - 1932, the family; with her newest brother - Ed; moved southwest of Martin to be close to her Uncle Ben and Aunt Mary Risse. They lived in a one room house with no well or outhouse. Martha talked of the kids sleeping close to stay warm and often waking up to her hair froze to the wall.

Because her parents spoke only German in their home, she started school not knowing English. Her grade school years were completed at the Little White River School. She attended high school at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, NE. She later attained a Third Grade Teaching Certificate, enabling her to teach school for 3 years in NE. She taught one year at a school south of Valentine, then taught grades 1-6 for 2 years in Nenzel. She later worked as a bank teller at Blackpipe State Bank in Martin.

Jimmie and Martha were married on June 10, 1953. Jimmie's best friend Wendell Johnson and Martha's sister Elsie introduced the couple and were their wedding attendants. The couple lived in western Todd County for 2 years on Jimmie's parent's ranch. In 1955 they purchased the Haag place south of Harrington, raising cattle, corn and small grain. The couple had 4 children: Dan, Peggy, Ann and Katie. Jimmie and Martha moved to Martin in 2007, when their grandson James & wife Abby moved to the ranch to be in partnership with Jimmie & Martha and Dan & Vera.

Along with raising her 4 children, Martha helped with farming when the kids were in school, was a CCD teacher for 24 years, president & v-pres. of the Catholic Altar Society, helped make the Catholic cemetery maps, was a school board member, drove the school bus, was a 4-H leader for many years and was a member of the BC Historical Society. She enjoyed doing things for others and spending time in her flower gardens. She & Elsie and Jimmie & Wendell enjoyed a friendly rivalry through uncountable Pinochle games. She was a loving mother and wife; spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband Jimmie, parents Frank and Anna Risse, brother Dave, sister-in-law Gloria Risse and brother-in-law Wendell Johnson.

She is survived by siblings: Elsie Johnson of Rapid City; Ed Risse of Martin; Chuck (Jane) Risse of Las Vegas, NV; Rita (Art) McDonald of Lame Deer, MT; Sister-in-law Joyce Risse of Martin. Children: Dan (Vera) O'Neill of Vetol; Peggy (Duane) Casavan of Stickney; Ann Harris of Martin; Katie (Paul) Naasz of Chatham, MI. Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren: James (Abby) O'Neill, Rush, Reagan, Peyson, Jade & Knox; Wendy (Jeff) Adamson, Ainsley & Taycee; Heather (Kalen) Harris, Jace, Harley & Kade; Maggie (Tate) Thompson, Tilden, Riley & Cyrus; Amy O'Neill; John (Allie) O'Neill; Joseph Casavan, Brigitte (Cale) Setness & Becks; Amanda Casavan & Halla Jo; Lindsee Harris, Marcus, Jared & Ethan; Sarah Harris; Nikki Harris & Alex Christensen; Jennifer Naasz, Jake Naasz.



In Loving Memory Of

Martha

1929 - 2016

In Celebration Of The Life Of

Martha Teresia O'Neill

October 12, 1929 ~ October 3, 2016

God's Garden

God looked around His garden
And He found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this Earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you and
Lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb,
So He closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go along,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

Arrangements By
Holmes Funeral Home ~ Valentine, NE
www.HolmesFH.com

Rosary & Vigil Service

Thursday - October 6, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church - Martin, SD
Prayers Led by Deacon Cal Clifford
Accompanist: Marj Oleske

Mass of Christian Burial

Friday - October 7, 2016 @ 10:00 am
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Officiant: Fr. Tyler Dennis
Accompanist: Marj Oleske

Special Music

"Heaven's Garden" - "I'm Too Old To Die"
Stuart Livermont

Pallbearers ~ Grandchildren

James O'Neill ~ Wendy Adamson ~ Heather Harris
Maggie Thompson ~ Amy O'Neill ~ John O'Neill
Joseph Casavan ~ Brigitte Setness ~ Amanda Casavan
Lindsee Harris ~ Sarah Harris ~ Nikki Harris
Jennifer Naasz ~ Jake Naasz

Honorary Bearers

Great Grandchildren ~ Les Byrne

Interment

Martin Catholic Cemetery
Martin, South Dakota