

# Alma Jane Hayes

Alma Jane (Godfrey) Hayes of Rosebud, SD departed for paradise on March 27, 2023. She was blessed to have walked this earth for 99 years. She was an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe born on February 13, 1924 in Santee, NE to Edward Godfrey, Sr and Carrie (Cherry-bud/Primeaux) Godfrey. She leaves behind her daughter Karen Weathers of Rosebud; 14 grandchildren; 67 great grandchildren; 24 great-great grandchildren and 29 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Narcisse and Edward Godfrey; sisters Anna (Noah Broken Leg), Doreen (Hugh McBride) and Verna (Fred Irvin); sons Thomas Espinoza, Robert Wayne Espinoza and Joseph Edward Espinoza; daughters Margaret Doreen (Espinoza) Moran, Glenda Espinoza, Mary Louise Espinoza and Delores Espinoza; and grandsons Michael Lynn Espinoza and Thomas Leon Espinoza, Sr.

Edward and Carrie Godfrey made their permanent residence at Ponca Creek Milks Camp Community in 1924 which was founded by Alma's maternal great grandfather Chief Milk (Asanpi). Together they farmed 80 acres of land along with a few cattle and raised their children on this homestead. Edward served as lay reader for 23 years at All Saints Episcopal Church at Milks Camp. Alma and siblings attended day school at Milks Camp and later attended the old boarding school at Mission, SD. Alma completed her GED at Sinte Gleska University in 1979.

Alma met and married Antonio Gutierrez Espinoza in 194? at Grand Island, NE where he was stationed in the Army/Air Force. They relocated to Stockton, CA and returned to South Dakota in 1947 where they made their home in Winner until they divorced in 1956.

Alma worked a variety of jobs which included St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Boarding School at Wakpala, SD, Rosebud Boarding School and the Checker Board Café at Mission, SD and dry cleaning businesses in Rapid City, SD and Sioux City, IA. Her last and longest employment was with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Administrative offices in housekeeping and telephone operator for approximately 20 years. She also served as receptionist at the Sicangu Oyate Land Office on the Work Experience Program for a few years until she finally retired around 2005. She knew all the phone numbers for every program on the reservation.

She was an excellent fry bread maker, seamstress and crocheter. She loved to crochet, do crossword puzzles, read newspapers/magazines/her Bible and watch the Price is Right and golf games on TV. She was always busy with her hobbies or just spending time going through her collections of odds and ends. If you ever needed something unusual she usually had one. She never threw anything away; if it was broke she would try to fix it. She always liked to tell stories of her childhood living at Milks Camp and spending summers at Santee with her grandmother Louise and auntie Esther.

She will be missed very much by her family.



*In Loving Memory Of*

# Alma

February 13, 1924 ~ March 27, 2023

## Her Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of her as gone away -  
Her journey has just begun  
Life holds many facets  
The Earth is only one  
Just think of her as resting  
From the sorrows and the tears  
In a place of warmth and comfort  
Where there are no days and years  
Think how she must be wishing  
That we could know today  
How nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away  
And think of her as living  
In the hearts of  
those she touched  
For nothing loved  
is ever lost-  
And she was  
loved so much.

Facebook: I Miss Those Close To Me Who  
Are Now In Heaven As Beautiful Angels



*In Celebration Of The Life Of*

# *Alma Jane Hayes*

## **Services**

Fr. Paul Hall in Mission, SD

Wake Services: Sat & Sun - April 1-2, 2023 @ 7pm

Funeral: Monday - April 3, 2023 @ 1pm

Burial: Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Mission, SD

*Officiant: The Rev. Isaiah Broken Leg  
Senior Catechist Erroll Geboe*

## **Pallbearers**

Chris Menard

Joe Espinosa, Jr.

Frank Espinosa

Bob Oliver

David Espinoza, Sr.

Steve Reynolds, Jr.

Anthony Mizner

Chance Eagleman

## **Honorary Bearers**

All Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren  
and Great-Great Grandchildren  
All Relatives and Friends

Arrangements By  
**Holmes Funeral Home ~ Valentine, NE**  
[www.HolmesFH.com](http://www.HolmesFH.com)