



Marlene Janice Smith

November 11, 1943 - September 21, 2021

Marlene Janice (Schmidt) Smith was born November 11, 1943 in Omaha, Nebraska to Arnold and Irene (Voss) Schmidt. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bennington, Nebraska. Marlene grew up on the family dairy farm west of Bennington, where she developed a love for animals (except for chickens!). Her favorite color was blue, and she loved pansies and hollyhocks. Marlene went to school in Bennington, where she was a cheerleader and played volleyball. She was also crowned athletic queen! After high school, she worked at Boystown in the donor office, and then at Guarantee Mutual as a clerk.

Marlene married Michael Smith June 1, 1963 at St. John's Lutheran in Bennington, and they were blessed with two children; Jeff and Michelle. They lived in Irvington and Bennington before buying their farm in Washington County in 1973. Together they milked cows and farmed. Marlene could be found most often in the milking parlor, where she didn't like any music or radio playing. Her favorite cows would give her a kiss on the cheek before leaving the barn. When you asked her why she didn't drive a tractor, she would tell you, because she was smart! The farm always had an abundance of cats, which all the grandkids enjoyed.

She also cleaned houses for over 15 years, and became close friends with everyone she cleaned for. Marlene loved to watch her kids play sports, show

cows, and travel with friends to nearby towns. She felt so proud to be able to cheer on her grandkids in sports and attended every event. Marlene was also an avid Husker Volleyball fan.

Marlene had a giving heart and quick wit. She loved sharing laughs with her friends and neighbors. Her favorite restaurants were Farmer Brown's and the Alpine Inn. Family gatherings and playing cards at the farm are the most cherished memories. She is known for her fried chicken, meatloaf and chili, but spaghetti was always a side dish in her house. She always made her grandkids favorites: Grandma Vada's mac and cheese, and Grandma Irene's prime rib, but she never got the hang of making rice crispy bars!

Marlene was a treasured wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt, and we are privileged to have her love us!

Marlene died on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at CHI Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 77 years, 9 months, and 10 days. She was preceded in death by her parents Arnold & Irene Schmidt. Marlene is survived by her husband Mike of Blair, son Jeff & Krisa Smith of Bennington, daughter Michelle Jacobs of Omaha, grandchildren; Jake, Reagan, Emily, and Reese, brothers & sisters-in-law Sonny & Nancy Schmidt of Omaha, Jerry & Betty Schmidt of Omaha, and Roger & Kelly Schmidt of Palm Coast, FL, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **26.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Lutheran Church
322 N. Molley St.
Bennington, NE 68007

Funeral Service

SEP **27.** 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Lutheran Church
322 N. Molley St.
Bennington, NE 68007

Tribute Wall



“ *Marlene Janice Smith*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Marlene was my Moms best friend since they were little children. They stayed best friends always talking every week their whole lives. They always had so much fun laughing together. Marlene was always so much fun and she lit up the room! When I had kids Marlene was the first one to bring my boys the cutest baby outfits. She always made me smile and laugh and I always had great comfort knowing my Mom and her would always best friends. I am so sad she has passed away. I will always cherish the memories of her and will always cherish watching her beautiful friendship with my Mom. -Love, Janae Cloudt-Svagera*

Janae - October 02, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



September 26, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.



September 24, 2021 at 09:43 PM



“ Kuker & Zimmerman families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.



Kuker & Zimmerman families - September 24, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.



September 22, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ You will be deeply missed. You were an amazing and caring person. The Hendrix/Moore family.

NATALIE HENDRIX - September 22, 2021 at 02:15 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



September 22, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



September 22, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ *Roger and Kelly Schmidt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



Roger and Kelly Schmidt - September 22, 2021 at 11:26 AM

JD

“ Michelle,
*Im so sorry for your loss. Your mom was always so nice to me when i was over to play. I remember playing Barbie under your dining room table using all the chairs as the rooms of our house. Your dad came in for lunch and your mom made your dad sit in the living room to eat his lunch, so as not to disturb our "home". I remember also your mom making food for us when we walked beans. The "good old days"!
I stopped by your parents home several times over the years to ask your parents questions about milking, or cows, or hay. They were always so helpful and kind! Even today, seeing an owl figurine always brings your moms owls to mind. Praying for peace and comfort for you all.*

Juli Dotzler - September 22, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



September 22, 2021 at 10:17 AM

MT

“ Some of my earliest memories are visiting Mike & Marlene with my dad. Mike & dad would talk farm and dairy stuff, and we girls would get to play with the cats and kittens and could go inside the house (if we were clean!) and have cookies or some other snack with Marlene. Marlene was always kind and cheerful, and her home always felt calm and comfortable. "Mike & Marlene" has been used almost as a single word in the family for so long. I can't believe Marlene is gone. May Mike & Marlene's family take comfort in the happy memories.

Michelle Tiedje - September 21, 2021 at 10:38 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.



September 21, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.



September 21, 2021 at 07:46 PM

SC

“ *Marlene and I took vacation to Minnesota with my parents when we young. We had a blast. Talked about those trips many times thru the years. I will miss her but the memory lives on. Rest in peace my cousin.*

Shirley Cloyd - September 21, 2021 at 07:16 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marlene Janice Smith.*



September 21, 2021 at 07:13 PM