

# Kathaleen Marie "Kathy" (Kroll) Gelling
## December 19, 1943 – January 24, 2011

Kathaleen Marie "Kathy" Gelling, 67, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away Monday, January 24, 2011, at Dougherty Hospice House following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Kathy was born December 19, 1943, in Webster, South Dakota, to Herbert W. and Jeanette (Cox) Kroll. She grew up with her family in Andover and received her schooling at the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls.



During her high school years, Kathy was a cheerleader for the boys' varsity football and basketball teams and frequently volunteered at the school's snack bar. She graduated from SDSD in 1962, then attended Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., for one year. She also briefly attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis in 1964.



Kathy married Dennis Hoppe, also an SDSD Alumnus, and they have two children Randy and Becky. The couple later divorced. Kathy remained closely connected to the Deaf community throughout her life. She served for several years as secretary at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Sioux Falls and worked as a dormitory supervisor at SDSD. She was also a favorite babysitter for several Deaf and hearing families. During the final 11 years of her life, she worked as a custodian at Communication Services for the Deaf.

Kathy loved reading, cooking, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Her friendships and care for others were an important part of her life.

Survivors included her son, Randy Hoppe and his wife, Shelly, of Lennox, South Dakota; her daughter, Becky Kempf and her husband, Curt, of Wolsey, South Dakota; two sisters, Karen Uhrich of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Karla Uecker and her husband, Curt, of Benbrook, Texas; and her brother, Thomas Kroll of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

She also leaves her grandchildren, Nathan and Nikolus Olson, Rayann and William Hoppe, and Terri Kempf; her companion, Craig Buxton of Sioux Falls; and close friends, Glenn and Judy Adler and family, and Donna and John Bennett and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her grandson, Andrew Olsen.

A celebration of Kathy's life was held February 5, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Sioux Falls, with Pastor Matthew Nix officiating. Burial of her ashes was planned for a later date at Andover Cemetery in Andover. Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion handled the arrangements.