

Marlene L. Turk

March 1, 1936 – March 12, 2025

Marlene (Hestness) Wagner Turk, 89, her husband Frank Turk, Sr., and their beloved dog, Jenny tragically passed away on March 12, 2025, at their home in Sioux Falls, SD due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

She was born in Thompson, Iowa, on March 1, 1936, to Leonard and Ruth (Olson) Hestness.

Celebration of Life held on March 20, 2025 at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD

The Celebration of Life for Frank and Marlene Turk held on May 9, 2025 at Gallaudet University, Elstad Auditorium.

Marlene's parents relocated to Council Bluffs so she could attend the Iowa School for the Deaf, from which she graduated. She then married Jerry Wagner in 1960 and together they cared for three Schnauzer dogs. Marlene had a passion for arts, crafts, and painting, often dedicating her time to volunteer work. She also served as a houseparent at both the Nebraska School for the Deaf and the Iowa School for the Deaf.

In June 2009, Marlene married Dr. Frank R. Turk at Camp Lakodia in Madison, SD. Marlene had continuously supported Frank in his role as director of the National Middlers Leadership and Literacy Camp (NMLLC), fostering a shared commitment to helping deaf youth flourish in their lives. Marlene and Frank cherished their dog, Jenny, and frequently brought her along in a stroller.

Marlene actively participated in various deaf associations, including the SD Association of the Deaf, Iowa Association of the Deaf, Nebraska Association of the Deaf, Kansas Association of the Deaf, and Deaf Seniors of South Dakota.

Marlene is survived by her brother Richard Hestness; sister-in-law Connie Hestness; Frank's children - Frank (Rosa) Turk Jr., Marianne (Erik) Doremus and Michael (Brenda) Turk, as well as a host of other loving family and friends. Marlene didn't have children, but she loved (and was loved by) her five nieces, Julie, Laura, Valerie, Susan and Deborah, and her five nephews, Stephen, Jeffrey, Mark, Michael, and David.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Ruth; her first husband Jerry Wagner, sister Kay (Hestness) Pitt, brother Robert (Bob) Hestness, and sister-in-law Diane Hestness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the National Association of the Deaf Youth Leadership Camp Alumni Foundation and Iowa School for the Deaf.

Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion, SD, has been entrusted with the services. Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com

