Charlene Newsam Ortman

June 25, 1934 – November 10, 2017



Charlene Newsam Ortman, 83 of Canistota, SD passed away Friday November 10, 2017 at Canistota Good Samaritan Home.

Charlene Newsam was born on June 25, 1934 in Murdo, SD to Verna Irene Newsam. She graduated from the South Dakota School for the Deaf in 1950 and went on to attend SD Beauty Academy and Nettleton Academy of Hair Design.



Charlene married Leonard Ortman on April 1, 1952 in Luverne, MN. They lived in Denver for two years after their marriage, where she worked at Farmers Union Insurance Co. Upon returning to Canistota, they owned and operated Starlite Hotel for 26 years. Charlene and Leonard then moved into Sioux Falls, where she worked at Sioux Valley Hospital for 7 ½ years.

Charlene was a member of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf for 32 years, Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf and Rapid City Association of the Deaf.



Charlene was survived by: her children, Pam Ortman of Las Vegas, NV, Kevin Ortman of Superior, WI and Tanya Riddle of Waubun, MN; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one sister, Lea Reynolds and one brother Lyle (Lynn) Reynolds.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Sunday, November 12 at Kinzley Funeral Home in Salem, SD. Interment was at Canistota Cemetery (To take place at a later date)