Bernice (Loof) Heater

November 23, 1934 – February 22, 2011



Bernice Heater passed away on Tuesday, February, 22, 2011 at Good Samaritan Village in Sioux Falls. She died of age-related causes at the age of 76.

Heater was born on November 23, 1934, to Claus and Luella (Dreyer) in Monroe, SD. She received her education at the South Dakota School for the Deaf, graduating at 1954. She married Leonard Heater on June 1964, in Marion, S.D. The couple had one daughter, Ewla. During her younger years, Heater worked in the dry cleaning industry at both Sioux Valley Hospital (now known as Sanford Hospital) and Shipley's Laundry located in downtown Sious Falls.

Bernice was an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, and the South Dakota Association for the Deaf, and the Deaf Seniors of South Dakota. Bernice also participated in the Style Club that folded some years back. She is best remembered as someone who was always willing to sign the Pledge of Allegiance before the start of the Deaf Seniors of South Dakota regular meetings.

Heater also had 14 grandchildren who she adored and loved very much, especially her deaf grandson, Gary Heater. She was very much involved in their activities.

Those left to cherish Bernice's memory include her daughter Ewla (George Kiggins) Heater of Sioux Falls; her brothers, Robert (Janice) Loof of Marion, SD, and Jerold (Dian) Loof of Sunset, UT; her sisters, Debra (Ben) Stroh of Fargo, ND and Darla (Loren Ver Hey) Bartels of Sioux Falls; 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding Bernice in death included her husband, Leonard Heater; her parents Claus and Luella Loof; her twin brother and sister; 3 step-sons; 1 grandchild; and 1 great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 26 at Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Sioux Falls with Pastor Matthew Nix officiating. Visitation was held the night before from 5-7 at the Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls. She was laid to rest at the Monroe Cemetery in Monroe, SD

