

Nita Jean was the first of 3 children born to Glenn & Ducey (Alpha) Randle. She was born on a hot August 4<sup>th</sup> day in Mayville, ND, in 1942. A sister arrived 18 months later, and a brother 2 years after. They lived in Mayville for five years before moving to Devils Lake. Two years later, their family of five moved to Ft. Totten where Ducey began teaching for the government school for the next 20 or so years. Nita attended grade school in Devils Lake & Ft. Totten and high school in Sheyenne.

In her first marriage, she lived in Fargo and Fresno, CA, where 2 daughters were born. Two years later they took their single engine airplane to Fairbanks, AK. They returned to ND and had a son. Things were not looking well in their marriage and a divorce became final. Shortly after Nita then attended college at Lake Region Junior College and then moved to Grand Forks where she attended Aakers Business College, enrolling as a medical secretary. She worked at UND School of Medicine – Anatomy Department.

She met and married Johnnie (Bud) McKelvey, a dairy farmer from Warwick, on February 16, 1973. A new life began for them by joining families. There was gardening to do, insemination classes to attend, a baby girl born too early, and 1 ½ years later, a healthy baby girl was born. She also learned how to milk cows, combine grain, feed an army (the family) and later in life worked at The Fashion Boutique in Devils Lake. They recently celebrated 50 years of marriage with a small surprise party held at their farm.

Having been brought up on the reservation, she understood the many sorrows and heartaches some of the natives endured, some because they were good friends with Bud and Nita. God provided many opportunities to listen and to share their love of Jesus with them.

Nita attended New Life Fellowship for 30 plus years until poor health kept her from attending. She held Bible studies in Leeds, held revivals in their home, and various opportunities to share the love of Christ Jesus.

She died of kidney failure directly related to a 40-year history of diabetes & heart problems. She passed into the loving arms of her Savior Jesus Christ, while on the farm, on May 24, 2023, under the care of her daughters, a granddaughter Becca, and Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Survivors include husband, Johnnie (Bud); children, Cleasa (Marty) Anderson, Oriska; Melanie D. McKelvey, rural Tolna; Todd Nelson, Devils Lake; Melanie L. (Michael) Carter, Devils Lake; Tanya (Jonathan) Schoessow, Fargo; brother, Chuck (Joan) Randle, Pequot Lakes, MN; sisters-in-law, Audrey Gjestvang, Bismarck, & Ruth McKelvey, Underwood, ND; brother-in-law, Dayton (Kay) McKelvey, Devils Lake, ND; 18 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren and an aunt, Ava Wadholm, Sylmar, CA.

Preceding her in death by her parents; son, Chet; daughter, Teri Ann; sister, Karen Marsaa; brothers-in-law, Verle Marsaa, Harlan McKelvey and Arnold Gjestvang and three grandchildren.

# *Celebrating*

THE LIFE OF



*Nita McKelvey*

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AUGUST 4, 1942 – MAY 24, 2023

## *Love's Greatest Gift, Remembrance*

My mother's love is mine to keep  
A priceless feeling shared.  
I only pray that when you left me,  
You knew how much I cared.  
I watched you suffer, I watched you sigh,  
But all I could do was just stand by.  
When the time came I suffered too,  
For you, my mother,  
Never deserved what you went through.  
God took your hand, we had to part,  
It eased your pain but broke my heart.  
If you could have spoken before you died,  
There are the words you would have replied,  
"This life for me has truly passed,  
I loved you to the very last.  
Weep not for me, but courage take,  
And love one another for my sake."  
A silent tear of love and loss,  
Rest in peace, dear MOM.  
Your memory will always be with me,  
No matter where I may go.



## *Safely Home*

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the valley of the shade?  
Oh! But Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And he came Himself to meet me  
In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still:  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows  
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth -  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!





*Peace Prayer  
of St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Celebrating The Life Of

***Nita Jean McKelvey***

August 4, 1942 – Mayville, ND

May 24, 2023 – Warwick, ND

**VISITATION & PRAYER SERVICE**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Visitation 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Prayer Service 7:00PM

Evans Funeral Home, New Rockford, ND

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

Thursday, June 1, 2023

11:00AM

New Life Fellowship Church, Tolna, ND

**OFFICIATING**

Pastor Jeff Kapelle

**MUSIC**

Karol Kapelle ~ Organist

*Can't Feel At Home In This World Anymore* by The Carter Family

Solo ~ *I Can Only Imagine* ~ Karol Kapelle

Duet ~ *Softly and Tenderly* ~ Jeff & Karol Kapelle

*I'll Fly Away* by Alan Jackson

**PALLBEARERS**

Marty Anderson ~ Michael Carter ~ Jonathan Schoessow

Todd (Odie) Aasand ~ Terrence Klipfel ~ Michael Marsaa

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

All of Nita's Family and all her Close Friends

**BURIAL**

Warwick Cemetery, Warwick, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND

[www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com](http://www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com)