

Obituary

Phyllis Nedra Van Cleave

Nedra Van Cleave peacefully stepped from earth into heaven on October 13, 2019 at Holy Rosary Healthcare in Miles City, Montana. Nedra was born to James and Mabel (Armentrout) Ballinger on May 31, 1938 in South Bend, Indiana. Nedra graduated from high school in Culver, Indiana and soon made her way to Marion, Indiana to attend Marion College. There she met Paul Van Cleave, who also attended Marion College, and they were married on August 15, 1963. Nedra earned a BS in elementary education and taught school for 2 years in Marion, Indiana before they moved to South Dakota upon Paul earning his AB degree in religion and becoming a pastor. They celebrated 56 wonderful years together this year and added 6 children to their family.



Paul & Nedra pastored the Wesleyan Church in Forestburg, South Dakota, moved to Michigan for missionary internship, and then from 1973 to 1977, they served as Wesleyan missionaries to the Philippines teaching in the Bible Colleges before settling in Miles City. Nedra was a devoted wife and mother to her children, staying home to raise them after they returned from the mission field. She loved serving in the church and was a Sunday school teacher for many years. She also served in many areas at Christian Women's Club and attended Bible Studies regularly.

Nedra and her husband attended Grace Bible Church in Miles City for the last 22 years. She had a precious relationship with her Savior and we always knew her prayers were heard and answered by the Lord. Nedra prayed regularly for her children, and her grandchildren and her example of faith and love will be a wonderful witness for years to come.

She is survived by her husband, Paul, her children Denise (Dale) Erickson, John (Lucy) Van Cleave, Stewart Van Cleave, Diane (Jonathan) Free, Dorene (Christian) Pfendler, and Steven Van Cleave; and her 13 grandchildren.

Nedra is also survived by her brother Rocky Ballinger, sister Eileen Solomon, sister Nancy Elliot, and many cherished nieces and nephews, and numerous dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings Larry Ballinger and Denny Ballinger.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Stevenson & Sons in Miles City, with interment in the Custer County Cemetery, Miles City. A luncheon followed at the Range Riders museum.