



Nona Schumacher

April 6, 1931 - November 1, 2011

Nona J. Schumacher, 80, of Spearfish, passed away November 1, 2011 shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Nona was born April 6, 1931 in Heinola, Minnesota. She was the youngest of 11 children born to Oscar and Hilma Fraki. The family moved to New York Mills, MN. In the early '40 and she attended school there until her junior year of high school when she transferred to the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. After graduating in 1951 she moved to Minneapolis and on September 29, 1951 she married John Schumacher.

Nona was a natural born caregiver. She had an innate sense of what kind of help a person needed whether they knew or not and once she decided they needed her help she never took no for an answer. This quality served her well in various positions she held while working at Communication Service for the Deaf from 1980 until her retirement in 1991. She coordinated services for elderly deaf and hard of hearing clients in Sioux Falls and later became the first director of the CSD office in Rapid City. Before leaving Sioux Falls and she and John also managed the Maple Creek Apartment complex which offered housing for the deaf and hard of hearing. Nona made sure every resident make it down to the community room on Saturday mornings for coffee, donuts and friendship. Upon retiring Nona and John moved to Spearfish, SD where they lived for several years until family circumstances and John's failing health necessitated moving. After 15 years in Sun City, CA, Nona had just returned in May, to the Black Hills that she loved, to live with her daughter.

Nona will be remembered as a generous, loving mother and grandmother, a beloved role model and friend by the many people whose lives she touched in all the communities in which she lived and worked.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan (Bruce) Kater, Spearfish; grandson, Andrew J. Page, Fairbank, Alaska; sisters-in-law Alice Grieger, New York Mills, MN, and Catherine Wangler of Aberdeen, SD; brother-in-law Sebastian (Carol) Axtman, Pierre, SD; numerous nieces and nephews and her dearest friends Sheila and DJ Hoebel of Greeley, CO. She was preceded in death by her parents, all 10 of her siblings and John, her husband of 54 years.

There will be no service at this time. Her family will gather at a later date to celebrate her life. Nona had a very soft spot in her heart for animals of all kinds, so a contribution in her name to your local animal shelter would be fitting.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-isburg Funeral Chapels and Crematory Service of Spearfish. Condolences may be sent to the family at PO Box 1084, Spearfish, SD 57783 or online at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com. (Editor's note: this obituary was published in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader on November 5, 2011.)