

Mary Lillian (Strickler) Howard

September 25, 1924 – November 2, 2011

Funeral services for Mary Lillian Howard, 87, will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 22, at First Christian Church in Wheatland, Wyoming with Pastor Andy Gudahl officiating. Dual inurnment will follow at the Wheatland Cemetery, per she and her husband, Joe's, wishes that they be buried together.

Mary died Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at the Life Care Center of Cheyenne in Cheyenne, Wyoming, following a brief stay.

She was born in Wheatland on September 25, 1924, to Luther M. and Ella M. (Marlow) Strickler, graduated from Wheatland High School in 1942, and remained in Wheatland for the rest of her life, other than short times in California and Riverton. On her parent's anniversary on April 9, 1944, she married her soul mate and life-long partner, Joe R. Howard. Mary worked for a time as a telephone operator, at Thorne Drug, and at Wyoming Realty, but her main job in life was a homemaker and caregiver. She raised her children, babysat for other people's children, helped her husband in the fields, and was the best short-order cook around. She took care of her grandchildren and later her great-grandchildren and even a great-great-grandchild. She also cared for her own mother later in life. Mary had the most generous, loving, giving spirit and no one who met her stayed a stranger for long.

She was a member of the Women of the Moose, VFW Auxiliary and her Thursday Afternoon Blitz

Club, all in Wheatland.

Surviving her are four daughters: Jorga Schmaing of Cheyenne, Linda Rietz of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; Marsha (Neil) Kafka of Wheatland, and Sandy (William J.) Dalles of Laramie; brother Bob (Beth) Strickler of Riverton; 11 grandchildren – Miken (Daniel) Harnish, Tara (Jeremy) Brown, Sarah (Jay) Harris, Cory (Gwendi) Rietz, LaRay Owens, Jamie (Kristi) Rietz, Festi (CJ) Edwards, Dustin (Carrie) Kafka, Haley Dalles, Ashley (Dave) Kling, and Bill Dalles; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters-in-law Edith W. "Willie" (John) Bailey of Seattle, Washington, and Helen (LeRoy) Rutz of Wheatland, and many nephews, nieces, and extended family, as well as her special friends.



Mary L. Howard

She was preceded in death by her husband Joe R. Howard, her parents Luther and Ella Strickler, a brother Jimmy Strickler, sister Annesta Zee Parr-Stebar, son-in-law Clayton Rietz, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial to the Old Grads Association, 1056 Pine Street, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201 or to the Women of the Moose #990, P.O. Box 312, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201 would be appreciated by the family.

The Gorman Funeral Homes – Platte Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at gormanfh.com.