

Fern Lucille (Brill) (Fite) Wagner was born on July 3, 1929 to Ruby (Burnham) Brill and Bryan M. Brill on a farm northwest of Platte, SD. Fern had three sisters: Esther, Wilma and Maxine and two brothers: Melvin "Bud" and Arthur.

One of Fern's earliest memories was gathering around the organ with her family while they played different instruments and sang. At 10 years old Fern signed up "The Brill Trio" to sing in an amateur contest at Platte High. They sang and yodeled their way to first place two years in a row.

Fern attended grade school at Beemer School for eight years and graduated from Platte High School in 1947. She worked at the B&T Café the summers of 1946 and 1947.

Fern met and married Charles E. "Gene" Fite in November of 1947. They lived west of Academy, SD on a farm and ranch for 42 years. Three children were born to them: Douglas E., Sondra Jean, and Lou Ann. Fern and her husband also worked as sales representatives for DeSmet Farm Mutual for 17 years.

Fern accepted Christ as her Saviour and Lord when she was 25. She served in the Academy United Church of Christ as a secretary. She also taught Sunday School, served as Sunday School Superintendent and President of the Ladies Aid. Fern became a widow in November 1989. She moved to Platte in 1990 and was one of the first five to move into the new condominiums. She helped to bring Christian TV (TBN) to the Platte cable system in 1993.

Fern was active in property tax reform in South Dakota for five years, working with a group called "Dakota One." It was there she met her second spouse, Dr. Charles Wagner. They were married on April 11, 1997. Fern enjoyed getting to know Charles' two children: Eric and Andrea and their families.

The newly married couple spent the next seven years in Florida except for the summer months when they lived in their condo in Platte, SD. In 2004 Fern and her husband returned full time to the condo in Platte. They were active in their church. Fern enjoyed reading, she often wrote poetry for special occasions, she loved her big family and was happy for all family gatherings. Fern and her husband traveled extensively in the US and other countries. Their trip to Israel was a dream come true. Walking day by day where Jesus walked, standing on Mount Olive where her Saviour and Lord will return made her bible reading come more alive. The memories of that journey stayed with her always...she often shared her joy of that experience with others. Sharing her life with her husband, Charles and all the members of her large and growing family and friends was happy, blessed and complete because of her relationship with her Saviour and Lord.

Fern Lucille Wagner, 93, of Platte, SD passed away Saturday, September 10, 2022 at Platte Care Center Avera.

Fern was preceded in death by: her husbands: Gene and Charles; her daughter, Sondra Jean; her son, Douglas E.; her daughter-in-law, Ardelle Fite; her parents; two brothers; three sisters; three brothers-in-law; and one sister-in-law.

She will be greatly missed by: her daughter, Lou Ann (Eldon) Qualm; daughter-in-law, Linda Fite; her seven grandchildren: Bethany (Jason) Gusso, Brian (Kim) Fite, Lesley (Grant) Boltjes, Aaron (Tami) Fite, Tod (Spring) Qualm, Toby (Wendy) Qualm, and Tara (Kevin) Severson; 26 great grandchildren; two sisters-in-law: Dorothy Brill and Loretta Brill; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Fern's memory may be directed to: Gideons, PO Box 223, Platte, SD 57369 or LaRoche Cemetery, c/o Janet Tegethoff, 35514 SD Hwy 50, Platte, SD 57369.





After Glow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an after glow
of smiles when life is done
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.

Carol Mirkel

"My Name is recorded in the Book of Life
Therefore I have a room in that Mansion
reserved for me...I have checked into that room.
Do you have a reservation???"

IN LOVING MEMORY OF Fern Lucille Wagner

July 3, 1929 - September 10, 2022

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

Friday, September 16, 2022 10:30 A.M.

Mount Funeral Home
Platte, South Dakota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Israel Vasek

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"Amazing Grace"
"Home", Israel Vasek
"Because He Lives"
Pianist, Shirley Johnson

CASKET BEARERS

Fern's Grandchildren

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Fern's Great Grandchildren

INTERMENT

LaRoche Cemetery
Academy, South Dakota

*In remembrance, please turn on your headlights
during the procession to the cemetery.
Mount Funeral Home is honored
to be assisting Fern's family.*

