



Eleanor Deloris Martin

November 15, 2024

Eleanor Deloris Martin (Aho), 84, of North Kingstown, RI, formerly of Rapid City, SD, died Friday, November, 15, 2024, at South County Hospital after a long hard fought battle against Dementia with Lewy bodies. She passed away smiling knowing she was going to be reunited with her family once again and getting to come back home to South Dakota.

Eleanor, was born in Belle Fourche and raised in Arpan. In 1960, she married her sweetheart, James Russell Martin of Rapid City, at the Canyon Lake United Methodist Church and to whom she was married to for over 50 years before his passing in 2011. She graduated from Nisland High School and Black Hills State College in 1966 with a degree in teaching.

After spending more than 25 years in the Seattle area, she and her family moved back to the Black Hills area in 1991 and she resumed her teaching career at Youth & Family Services Head Start in Rapid City, retiring at the age of 80 in 2020, partially due to the outbreak of the COVID Pandemic.

As her only child, many people have spoken kindly of her over the years as to how caring and sweet she was as a person and without question, she was the best person I've ever known and best friend I've ever had.

She will be profoundly missed.

Survivors include her son, Jay Martin, Rapid City; sister, Janet Kessler, Thornton, CO; brother-in-law, Robert Martin, Downey, Calif.; sister-in-law, Judy Martin, Kingston, RI; as well as (10) nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at a later date, with burial at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche, SD.

Tribute Wall

BK

“ Hello, I was a best friend to Eleanor when we were in high school and her mother was sick. We were college roommates the first two years of school at BHT. She spent every weekend of those two years going home to the farm to care for her father and her brother. She was the best daughter, sister and friend anyone could ever have. We stayed in touch over the years, visiting her in Seattle and later in SD. I lost touch about 4 years ago and have thought of her often since then. I am grateful to know she has found peace. My world has seldom known anyone as courageous, smart, kind and gentle as Eleanor. I am certain that she was a wonderful teacher and leader. In loving memory, Beccie Ruff Kunzman, Walnut Creek CA

Beccie Ruff Kunzman - December 15, 2025 at 05:54 PM