



Catherine "Cathy" Rice

June 22, 1926 - February 5, 2018

Cathy Rice died on Monday, February 5 with her large loving family gathered around her.

Catherine Ruth Ahlquist was born in Harlowton, Montana on June 22, 1926, the third child of Lillian (Tenney) and Edwin Ahlquist. Her father had died one month before her birth. In 1930, her mother remarried and she took the last name of her stepfather, Henry VanderPas. The family moved to Ferdig in the northern Montana oil fields. There a younger brother was born, and there her mother died in 1936.

Catherine graduated from Oilmont High School and attended Montana State College in Bozeman, where she studied home economics for three years before marrying Oscar P. (Pat) Rice on June 22, 1946. They would raise sixteen children and celebrate 50 years of marriage before Pat's death in 1997.

Cathy was a marvelous homemaker who had a gift for making childhood joyful. Birthdays were always special, Christmases were magical, and she made parties of holidays significant or insignificant. She simply loved to celebrate. She was a wonderful cook and gifted seamstress, and her gentle patience made motherhood seem effortless to her children.

Pat and Cathy owned and operated the S & L Ice Cream Store from 1975 to 1986, giving their children an opportunity to earn money for college. Cathy's other dream was fulfilled in 1979 when the family undertook a cabin-building project on their mining claim property north of Butte. "The Cabin" continues to

be a focal point in family gatherings. Among Cathy's dearest friends were members of her faith family: Study Club, her prayer group, and her Immaculate Conception Catholic community.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her daughter Marilyn, son-in-law Darrell Keck, brothers Ed and Hank VanderPas, stepsisters Rosemary Fields and Thelma Roog, and grandchildren Greg, Sara, and Heber.

She is survived by her children: Jim (Linda) Rice of Arlington, TX; Susie (Brad) Frazier of Tucson, AZ; Jeanne Keck of Shelby, MT; Irene (Don) Scheidecker of Butte; Dan (Melody) Rice of Butte; Debbie (Dave) Mueller of Butte; Rick (Peggy) Rice of Kevin, MT; Steve Rice of Butte; Dave (Patty) Rice of Hollister, CA; Bob Rice of Thompson Falls, MT; Ray (Gladys) Rice of Pullman, WA; Tony (Dana) Rice of Butte; Deanna (Dave) Schafer of Missoula, MT; Michelle Hoffman of Phoenix, AZ; and Beth (Paul) Mast of Missoula; 26 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren. Other survivors include her sister Allegra Ahlquist of Arizona, and sisters-in-law Olga Rice of Missouri and Martie Claar of Emigrant, MT.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Vigil

FEB **9**. 6:00 PM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Service

FEB **10**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Corner of Caldonia and Western Street
Butte, MT 59701
bccn@diocesehelena.org

Tribute Wall

BC

“ So sorry for the loss of this beautiful woman. The love this woman knew from her family is a love I wish for all women to have! May her beautiful memories keep your hearts warm forever. Sincerely
Brenda Zemljak Cortese

Brenda Cortese - February 11, 2018 at 11:37 AM

KM

“ Irene and all your family, from Lewisohn outward, I am saddened to read this news. Your mom was one of the nicest people from the time I met her as a child to the times I would see her at Mass when I would be home. I hope her strength and faith will carry you through the difficult times. Prayers for everyone. Kerry Riley Mahoney

Kerry Mahoneyf - February 10, 2018 at 02:20 PM

MP

“ May her memory be eternal! She was such a sweet lady and a woman of great faith. My condolences to the entire Rice family. Peace and all good things, Michael R. Prendergast, Portland, Oregon.

Michael Prendergast - February 08, 2018 at 05:54 PM

KB

“ I was sad to hear about “Mrs Rice”. The Millers on Caledonia grew up with the Rice clan and thought as moms go, she was a legend. She could handle all there was in a household and give her love to her husband, kids and community. That is a very beautiful person in my book. We send hugs. Karen (Miller) Baker.

Karen Baker - February 08, 2018 at 05:29 PM

DS

“ Ray and Gladys and all the Rice family; We are sorry for the loss of your Mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Don and Geraldene Scott

Don Scott - February 08, 2018 at 05:25 PM

RL

“ Raymond, Gladys, Valerie, Camina, Suellen, and the rest of the Rice Family: We are sorry for your loss. You all are in our Prayers and Thoughts!

Dink, Sissy, Robie, & Violet Lee

Robert Lee - February 08, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Catherine "Cathy" Rice.



February 07, 2018 at 07:53 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Catherine "Cathy" Rice.



February 07, 2018 at 04:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - February 07, 2018 at 01:32 PM