

On the sunny Monday afternoon of November 18, 2024, Earnestine Ruth Colgan gently passed into heaven after living 102 years on earth where she always gave thanks to God for nature's beauty. She was eager to join her beloved daughters, Anne and Chris, who left her too soon.

Born on July 12, 1922 in Edgemont, SD to Ruth (Hofacre) and Harry Spurgin, Earn had one older brother, Mick; and a younger brother, Donnie. Even though her family moved often during her childhood, she always remembered how much she enjoyed singing, dancing, and listening to music. She graduated sixth in her class of 666 from Tacoma High School.

During a visit with Edgemont family and friends, she met Charles (Chuck) Colgan. After a month's engagement, Chuck and Earn were married at St. James Catholic Church on June 5, 1944. Earn wore a white wool suit. The reception was held in Chuck's parents' home and angel food cake was served with strawberries and whipped cream. Chuck was stationed in Europe, and Earn returned to Tacoma to work where she remembered listening to Roosevelt's Fireside Chats and hearing about his death on the radio. Chuck and Earn moved to Hot Springs in May of 1946. Steve was born at the Sisters Hospital; Anne and Chris completed the family.

Earn and Chuck believed that shopping in Hot Springs and giving back to the community were important long before it was popular. Even though Earn worked as Chuck and Steve's New York Life secretary, she found time to volunteer at the Miss South Dakota Pageant for 50 years. Earn also served on the St. Anthony's Church Council, the funeral committee serving scalloped potatoes and ham, and helping in any way she was asked. Over the years she was awarded the 1993 Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year," Business and Professional Women's "Woman of the Year," and the 2002 and 2014 Mammoth Site Volunteer of the Year. Governor Janklow also proclaimed July 12, 2002 as Earnestine Colgan Day in South Dakota for her volunteer efforts.

Earn's greatest joy was her grandchildren; she loved being called "Grandma." Steve and his wife Sue's family moved to Hot Springs in 1978 where their children Sean and Beth spent joyful birthdays, holidays, and family gatherings with Grandma and Grandpa. Grandma was a fabulous cook who made her famous chocolate birthday cakes with seven-minute frosting and chocolate drizzle. Chris and Roger Burg's children Elizabeth and Eleanor visited often. And then came her "perfect" great grandchildren: Sean and his wife Irene's Aine and Ciara; and Elizabeth and Kyle's [Morris] Audrey and Leona. Throughout her long life, Grandma was proud of all of her family; she loved each one dearly and always wanted to know details of our lives.

Grandma taught us so many lessons: to take food to neighbors who are sick, to find joy in gardening and smelling flowers, to be strong and independent, to build good friendships, to laugh when the ketchup bottle is on the table during family pictures, to eat slowly and enjoy good conversation even though everyone else finished eating long ago; and to appreciate her Catholic faith, parades, bands, fireworks, hot air balloons, puzzles, the beautiful sky, the moon, and music all day long.

Earn is survived by "her kids" Steve and Sue, her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, her husband Chuck, and her daughters Anne and Chris.

*In Loving Memory of*



**Earnestine Ruth Colgan**

**July 12, 1922 ~ November 18, 2024**

*“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”  
— St. Francis of Assisi*

#### *Memorials*

*As a memorial to her, please consider volunteering at an organization of your choice and remember Earnestine*

#### *Christian Funeral Committal*

*Private family interment will be held on a later date at the Evergreen Cemetery, Hot Springs, South Dakota*

## ***MAY THE SOUL OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED Earnestine Ruth Colgan***

**REST IN PEACE**

<i>Born</i>	<i>Died</i>
July 12, 1922	November 18, 2024
Edgemont, South Dakota	Hot Springs, South Dakota

*Divine Mercy Rosary Lead By Bob Novotny  
9:00 a.m., November 23, 2024  
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church  
Hot Springs, South Dakota*

*Christian Funeral Mass  
10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 23, 2024  
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church  
Hot Springs, South Dakota*

*Celebrant  
Fr. Collins Igwilo*

*Special Music Provided by  
St. Anthony's Music Ministry  
“Canticle of the Sun”, “Be Not Afraid”  
“Ave Maria”, “Song of Farewell”  
“The Irish Blessing”*

*Honorary Pallbearers  
Earn's family - Tom Farrell, Bob Novotny,  
Joe Muller, Bob Hodorff & Gary Schuh*

*Luncheon  
Earn's family would like you to join them for a traditional  
St. Anthony's ham and scalloped potato dinner and  
to share the stories about her you will always remember*