

Gwen Anderson Healey, 67, of Hot Springs, South Dakota, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2023 at Edgewood Memory Care in Pierre, South Dakota after a long battle with vascular dementia.

Gwen was born on September 26, 1955 and was raised in Newell, South Dakota as the only daughter of Dale Bernard Anderson and Clarice Katheryn (Wiest) Anderson. From a young age, Gwen developed a passionate love for music and a deep devotion to her faith. After graduating from Newell High School in 1973, she attended Black Hills State University and pursued a degree in Music Education.

While spending a summer in Grand Junction, CO, Gwen met Daniel Michael Healey and the two were married on September 3, 1977 in a small, backyard ceremony in Spearfish, SD. Dan and Gwen spent the early years of their marriage in Spearfish, SD; Pittsfield, MA; and Newell, SD. Gwen found work as an office manager for Northern Hills Insurance in Spearfish, and later as an Assistant Music Teacher for the Newell school system. After starting their family in the northern Black Hills, Dan and Gwen eventually settled in Hot Springs where Gwen began a new career with VA Black Hills Health Care System before eventually retiring in 2014.

Throughout her life, Gwen remained deeply devoted to her family, her faith, and her music. She was an active member of the Catholic Church, offering her time and talents as a leader of the Youth Choir and Youth Group, a vocalist and accompanist for Sunday services both at St. Anthony's and the VA Catholic chapel, and enthusiastically playing the trumpet for the closing hymn "Jesus Christ Has Risen Today" at Easter mass every year. Gwen also participated in the Hot Springs Community Band, and together with Carol Foster, was a founding member of the Sandstone Singers, who continue to offer their musical talents to the Southern Black Hills today. When not serving her church, the veterans, or the community, Gwen stayed busy taking care of her family and being super mom to her children – while making it all look easy.

After retirement, Gwen and Dan could frequently be seen out and about cruising the Black Hills in their little red Mazda Miata, spending countless hours meeting new friends and sharing their love of music at festivals, open mics, jam sessions, or anywhere else an opportunity could be found.

Gwen is survived by her son, Dale (Kristina) Healey of Pierre, SD; her daughter, Kara (Connor) Kelly of Phoenix, AZ; two brothers, Jeff (Marti) Anderson of Colorado Springs, CO and Joel Anderson of Edmonds, WA; her granddaughter Lydia and countless family and friends both near and far.

Gwen was preceded in death by her husband, Dan, parents, Dale and Clarice, and many other family members and beloved pets.

Gwen's children would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the outstanding staff at Edgewood Memory Care, including Kenya Briggs, Casey and Cassidy Ryland, Violet Bollock, Kathleen Van Fossen, Jennifer Terry, Jessica McFarling, Mauna Wipf, Jhetta Nelson, Rylie Miller, Joel Johnson, Andrew DeGreef, Alex Remark, and Jennifer Weyrich who offered their unending love and support to Mom in her final years of life. We can never thank you all enough.

Gwen Healey



Forever Remembered



MAY THE SOUL OF THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Gwen Healey

REST IN PEACE

September 26, 1955 – March 6, 2023

Newell, South Dakota – Pierre, South Dakota

On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust."

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL MASS

10:00 a.m., Monday, April 24, 2023

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Hot Springs, South Dakota

CELEBRANT

Fr. Collins Igwilo

SPECIAL MUSIC

By St. Anthony's Music Ministry
"I Am The Bread Of Life", "You Are Mine"
"How Great Thou Art", "On Eagles Wings"

FELLOWSHIP

St. Anthony of Padua Fellowship Hall
after Gwen's Funeral Mass

MEMORIALS

Sandstone Singers c/o Carol Foster
201 North 3rd Street, Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747