

## **Roberta Rachel Burke**

1932-2023

Roberta Rachel Burke, nee. Garretson was born in Sheridan, Wyoming on September 19, 1932, to her parents, Robert L. Garretson and Leah Weber Garretson. She grew up in Clearmont, Wyoming, where her family were ranchers. Roberta loved to help with the annual cattle roundup, riding with her father to drive the herd to the stockyards. She also worked in the Garretson Mercantile stocking shelves. Roberta graduated from Clearmont High School in 1950 and enrolled at the University of Wyoming. That summer, Roberta attended a dance at Piney Hall where she met Milo Wesley Burke (known as Wes) of Ten Sleep, Wyoming. They were married later that year while students at the University. After Wes completed his degree in Agriculture, they lived in Wyoming, Texas, Nevada, and New Mexico as he worked with the forest service and in range management. Roberta often told stories of the rustic conditions in which they lived in these settings. Missing family and Wyoming, they returned to Wyoming in 1955. Wes was guiding a group of hunters who were so impressed with his mathematical and analytical skills that they offered him a job with Gateway Erectors, a construction contractor and construction products manufacturing company in Chicago. It was then Roberta and Wes moved to Chicago, followed by a transfer to St. Louis. Roberta and Wes remained in St. Louis where they raised two daughters and a son, Brenda Joyce [Schaeffer], Lori Lynn [Newcomer], and Milo Matthew Burke. Roberta and Wes were married for 72 years until she was preceded in death by Wes on August 10, 2022.

Roberta loved to travel and was active as a Girl Scout Leader when her daughters were young.

She happily chaperoned scout troops on trips across the country for many ears. Roberta was a voracious reader and an avid Cardinals baseball fan. She passed away on March 25, 2023.