



## Meryl O'Connell

April 29, 1924 - April 12, 2018

Meryl O'Connell, 93, passed away on April 12, 2018 as a result of injuries sustained in a fall. She was under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley at Sheyenne Crossings, West Fargo, ND. Meryl was born in Eagle Butte, South Dakota on April 29, 1924, the only child of Rupert and Lena (Davidson) Williams. She was raised in Bowman, North Dakota and lived for 64 years in Valley City, North Dakota, with her husband, Jim O'Connell.

Meryl managed the Valley City State University Bookstore for 20 years. She and Jim raised three children, and were active in the Congregational United Church of Christ, supported the community, and were devoted to VCSU's development and its students. Meryl was an active member of Chapter Z, P.E.O. for 65 years. She had a lifelong love of the piano and was an avid Ragtime musician.

Meryl's family includes Sandy West (Dalton), Peggy Sola, Jim O'Connell (Nadine), grandchildren, Cindy Cruzado (Juan Carlos), Sean West (Jane), Tom Anundson, Joe Anundson (Teri); great grandchildren, Jessica and Diego Cruzado, Nicholas and Lauren West, Willa and Dorra Anundson; nieces, Joan Stromer and Jean Butcher; and nephew, Jim Butcher.

A funeral service for Meryl will be held 3 pm Thursday, April 19, 2018 at Congregational United Church of Christ, Valley City. Visitation will be 1:00-

3:00pm before the service at the church. A private burial will be at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery, Mandan, North Dakota

Memorials may be directed to the VCSU Foundation Jim and Meryl O'Connell Scholarship or to Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

1825 - 46th St.  
Mandan, ND

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **19**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Congregational United Church of Christ  
217 4th St. NW  
Valley City, ND

## Funeral Service

APR **19**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Congregational United Church of Christ  
217 4th St. NW  
Valley City, ND

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Several years ago, Jim and Meryl were visiting Rapid City, where we lived. They called and we met them at a fine restaurant for supper. We had such a delightful time visiting and remembering. God bless Meryl and Jim.*

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**Beth Schlotman** - April 15, 2018 at 10:20 PM

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“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. What a very special lady. Meryl was a dear friend, colleague, and mentor. I feel so fortunate to have had the honor to work with her in the Student Center for so many years. Her positive upbeat outlook on life served to inspire many. She loved her husband Jim, her family, her church, and Valley City State University. She was a mainstay for so many years in the University Bookstore. The students thought the world of Meryl. She would go out of her way to do whatever she could to be a mom away from home. She was that and so much more! I hold her in the highest regard. Like so many, I was fortunate that our paths in life crossed. Thank you Mrs. O.C. She will be missed!*

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**Larry Robinson** - April 13, 2018 at 01:17 PM