



Sharon "Sam" Elaine Pederson

October 2, 1959 - November 19, 2019

Sharon "Sam" Pederson, 60, of Valley City, N.D., passed away Tuesday, Nov. 19, in her home. The funeral service will be 10:30 am, Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at Faith Lutheran Church, Valley City with visitation one hour before the funeral service.

Sharon Elaine Pederson was born October 2, 1959, in Valley City to Clayton and Isabelle (Bous) Pederson. Sam was a spirited person and fit right in on the farm. She was tremendously athletic and nimble, and in the summer had no use for shoes. "Sam" was her name change choice at about age six, copied from the Holstein bull at the time. Sam had a natural talent for softball. On defense she knew exactly what to do about a step ahead of everyone else. She was playing on the girl's slow pitch league, well above her age. In August of 1969, Sam suffered a traumatic brain injury and was in a coma for six weeks. She was not expected to live, wake up, talk, walk, take care of herself, anything. Well she wouldn't have that. With her indomitable spirit she kept on living.

Sam was left with severe seizures, an elevated temperature and balance issues. After recovery and for many years she was back at the barn helping. Sam graduated from VCHS in 1981. In 1988 she entered the day program at The Open Door Center (ODC). Sam participated in Special Olympics for many years. She loved music and went to many concerts. When a song came on the radio she often knew the artist and song and always sang along.

In 2007, Sam left home and moved into one of the ODC Group Homes. She

was an atypical client for Open Door in that she was more or less intellectually intact and could relate to staff in ways that many cannot. With the help of her friends at ODC, Sam was able to travel the US. Her favorite trips were to Hawaii, Branson and Medora. Sam greatly enjoyed the ODC and it was home. She has had a myriad of unusual illnesses and injuries and finally didn't outlive her 9 cat lives.

Sam had a twinkle in her eye and was always ready to pull your leg. She was a "foodie" like her mother, and an owner of many cookbooks. Sam enjoyed baking and cooking, and liked to search for new recipes. She embroidered countless dish towels and made hundreds of loomed scarves. Sam was an animal lover and may well have become a farmer like her other two siblings. Sam is survived by her brother Dennis (Gail) Pederson and sister Diane (Alvin) Wald; nephews Jesse Wald, Jason (Abby) Wald, Dylan (Rachel) Wald, Evan (Alex) Wilder, Blaine (Katie) Pederson and Marshall Pederson. She is also survived by nine great nieces and nephews; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

Sam was preceded in death by her parents.

Sam's family wishes to extend our sincere thank you to the Open Door Center for their great and increasing support of Sam.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel of Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

1825 - 46th St.
Mandan, ND

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church
309 4th St NE
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall



“ We remember Sam and her beautiful personality from many years ago. Our sympathy.
Caral & Tom Nix



Caral Nix - November 24, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ Sam, thank you for being my Valley City pal. I have so many memories with you out on the farm. You would drive us out to get the cows, you taught me how to help milk, we mowed the lawn, fed the calves, and so much more. My last memory is dancing with you at Evan and Alex's wedding. There was no hesitation when I asked if you wanted to.

Colette Aguirre - November 23, 2019 at 11:48 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sharon "Sam" Elaine Pederson.



November 23, 2019 at 11:43 PM

BB

“ *I loved sharing knitting projects with Sam.*



Becky Bartlett - November 23, 2019 at 06:29 PM

JP

“ *Jane Plecity lit a candle in memory of Sharon "Sam" Elaine Pederson*



Jane Plecity - November 23, 2019 at 04:58 PM

AH

“ *I knew Sam in high school she was a couple years older than myself. I remember her very well. I have not seen her since then, but seen her many times in high school. God bless her family at this time of loss of Sam. May you find comfort in knowing we will see our loved ones again after the coming of Christ! She will be greatly missed..... Alan Hefty*

Alan Hefty - November 21, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ *I,m sorry to hear about the loss of Sam,she will be missed. Bonnie Gordon*

Bonnie Gordon - November 20, 2019 at 05:44 PM

JP

My son Randy Prescott lives in the home Sam lived in. I would see Sam every Saturday. I would talk to her and sometimes she needed a hug. My son and I will miss her. She was a sweet person. Our prayers are with all of you. Josie Prescott

Josie Prescott - November 21, 2019 at 05:39 PM