



## Shirley V. Aylward

July 18, 1936 - August 10, 2015

Shirley V. Aylward, age 79 of Dickens, passed away Monday, August 10, 2015 at Loveland, CO.

Shirley was born July 18, 1936 at Wallace, NE, to Freeman and Virginia (Smith) McConnell. She graduated from Wallace High School in 1954 and went on to attend Kearney State Teachers College.

Shirley taught school south of Grinton and Dickens for a couple of years following her education. On April 28, 1956, she married Pat Aylward at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wallace. The couple moved out to the east coast while Pat served in the military. The couple returned to the area in the late 1950's, residing in the Wallace and Dickens area.

Shirley was heavily active in the St. Mary's Catholic Church for many years, serving on the Altar Society and as the organist for countless Masses, funerals and weddings. She coordinated the Dickens country school music and played an integral role in the Wallace school music program for many years.

Shirley supported her family in all aspects. She loved to entertain family over the holidays and made sure no one left her table hungry. She cherished the time spent with her grandchildren, and took an active role in their lives. Shirley was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and parishioner. She was also an ardent supporter of Wallace athletics.

Shirley was preceded in death by her father, Freeman McConnell; and brother, Clark.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Pat Aylward of Dickens; children, Mike (Lori) Aylward of Dickens, daughter, Mari Jo (Jim) Rugh of Windsor, CO, Marty Aylward of Dickens; mother, Virginia McConnell of Wallace; 5 grandchildren, Beth Aylward, Austin, Ben & Casey Rugh and Paige Aylward; 2 brothers, Vince McConnell (Kim) of Colorado, Springs, CO and Gary (Helen) McConnell of Wallace; along with many other relatives and friends.

A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be shared at [bullocklongfuneralhome.com](http://bullocklongfuneralhome.com).

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, August 14, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. CT at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wallace with Father Tom Kuffel as Celebrant. Burial will be in the Morning View Cemetery at Wallace.

Visitation will be from 1 PM to 4 PM on Thursday at the Bullock-Long Funeral Home in Grant. A Rosary will be recited at 7:00 PM CT on Thursday at the church in Wallace.

Bullock-Long Funeral Home of Grant is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Morning View Cemetery

Morning View Road  
Wallace, NE, 69169

**AUG**

**13**

**Visitation**

01:00PM - 04:00PM

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Bullock-Long Funeral Home

409 Warren Avenue, Grant, NE, US, 69140

**AUG**

**13**

**Rosary**

07:00PM

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St Mary's Catholic Church of Wallace

221 N. Commercial Avenue, Wallace, NE, US, 69169

**AUG**

**14**

**Funeral Mass**

10:30AM

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St Mary's Catholic Church of Wallace

221 N. Commercial Avenue, Wallace, NE, US, 69169

# Comments

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“ Pat and family I just saw about your loss of Shirley and want to extend my deepest sympathy to all of you. I hope you can all find comfort in the great memories you were able to make and share with her.

Toby Tobiasson  
Hershey

Mark Tobiasson - August 21, 2015 at 12:11 AM

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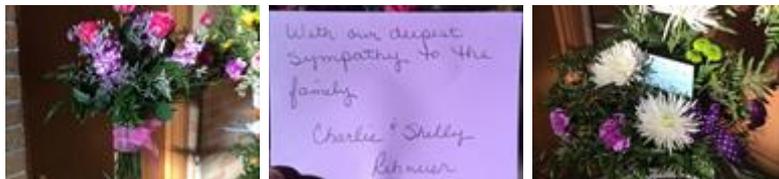
“ Pat, Mike, MaryJo, and Marty, So very sad to read of Shirley's passing. You are all in my prayers. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow. Robert Schmelzer

Robert Schmelzer - August 16, 2015 at 05:46 PM

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“ 34 files added to the tribute wall



Jason Tickle - August 15, 2015 at 09:35 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley V. Aylward.



August 13, 2015 at 09:14 PM

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“ Best. Aunt. Ever!

Michelle McConnell-Barrette - August 13, 2015 at 03:17 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Shirley V. Aylward.



August 13, 2015 at 02:42 PM

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“ To Pat and family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and I'm sorry I'm not able to be there. Shirley was a great wife, mother, and grandma. She always supported her family. I will miss our phone conversations as we shared many laughs and stories. Clark and I were so endeared by her love and support for our great grandson Colt. I will miss her in so many ways. I'm sure her and Clark are having a little visit now along with Ann.  
Love to all,  
Mary

maryemcconnell - August 13, 2015 at 01:08 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memorial DVD



Bullock-Long Funeral Home - August 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

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“ I am very sorry to hear about Shirley! I always looked forward to seeing and visiting with her. She had wonderful stories to share. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

Cari Rehmeier - August 13, 2015 at 09:31 AM

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“ Pat and the entire Aylward family,  
I was saddened to hear the news of Shirley's passing. She was always a delight and so friendly to visit with. I will miss seeing the two of you together, and your sense of humor with each other. I will be praying for all of you at this time of loss.  
Michelle Gurciullo

Michelle Gurciullo - August 13, 2015 at 08:47 AM

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“ Thoughts and prayers Pat & family always fun visiting with her and cleaning church with her and Ann was a hoot!! God Bless.

Coleen and family



coleen schumer - August 12, 2015 at 05:55 PM

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“ Dear Pat and Family  
We are so saddened to learn of Shirley's passing. Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family at this very difficult time. Prayers for comfort and peace for all.



Pat and Bob Pinion - August 12, 2015 at 05:28 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley V. Aylward.





“ Shirley has always been my second Mom. From teaching our Dickens school music and coaching our Christmas programs, to playing piano at my wedding, Shirley was always there for us kids. I'm sure her and Ann are either sharing a cold one together or a piece of pie and a cup of coffee. I'll sure miss the conversations and laughter she brought to our lives.

Melinda (Harris) Poyourow

Melinda (Harris) Poyourow - August 12, 2015 at 03:35 PM

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“ Shirley oh Shirley.....what a fine and lovely lady. A conversation with her was always filled with laughter that left a smile in my heart. She and her pal, Ann, are probably stirring up a bit of mischief even now  
Our loving sympathizing to each one of you who shares in our loss. Blessings...

Lynell Franklin

lynell franklin - August 12, 2015 at 01:26 PM

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“ I loved Shirley's wicked sense of humor and her ability to laugh at herself. One of my Favorite Memories of Making Music with Shirley involved a parishioner's funeral. The service was ready to begin and Shirley was nowhere to be found. We finally could delay no longer. Then in rushes Shirley like a Whirlwind with her hair all tossed and short of breath. She had been loading the car with her salad and music and in the process to free up her hands had set the music on top of the car. She got the salad in the car, started the engine and drove to Wallace only to find she had forgotten the music. She hadn't forgotten the music, she had left it on the roof of her car and driven to town. She rushed back towards Dickens searching for sheets of paper and her music book. She found it in a ditch near home and hurried back to the church. I would have loved to have seen a movie of a lady all dressed up for a funeral combing the ditch in search of all her sheet music.

I always loved singing with Shirley and miss her dearly. Her talent on the organ and piano always provided that air of confidence that everything would be okay in the choir loft as long as we had each other. We intuitively knew how each of us would react to unexpected events. That trust and confidence in each other's abilities made for some amazing memories from the choir loft.



**Michelle Sullivan** - August 12, 2015 at 12:27 PM

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“ What a wonderful woman....lot of fun memories ... Especially our trip to NFR in Vegas! Hugs and prayers to Pat and family!

**Lynne Jeffers** - August 12, 2015 at 10:33 AM

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“ Shirley was an amazing women. My family and I will miss her dearly.

Sue Hutchison

**sue hutchison** - August 12, 2015 at 08:50 AM