

## Words of Remembrance

When I first started to write this remembrance of my mother, I thought it would be a difficult but straightforward task. I have never been so humbled by a goal as I am now in trying to find an adequate way to honor my mother.

When I was a young woman, I made an unusual job choice and became a woman working in a man's world. I was asked over and over why I made that choice. The answer seemed so simple and obvious. With a mother like mine, I grew up believing there were no boundaries. A woman simply could choose to do any job she set her mind to.

At a time when it was more common for women to tend only to home and domestic chores, my mother joined my father in all their activities. Dad liked to trap shoot. Then Mom learned and took the state championship. My mother and father shared their life together in the fullest sense, including, fishing, hunting and golfing, along with countless other activities. They were *the* example of partnership in life. Mom's sense of humor made her the perfect straight man to Dad's comedy. Jokes and gentle teasing were part of their everyday life. Mom usually got the best laugh with either an "Oh, Chuck," or a simple roll of her eyes. Mom's legacy will be the lessons she taught her son and daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughters. I grew up aware of her character, courage, beauty and grace on display in ordinary living. She had a store of old clichés which served her as the guideposts to an honorable life. Whether I was a tear-stained child hurt by the slight of another, or an outraged idealist adult, she gave me her wisdom and guidance. Choose the high road, she'd say, don't sink to their level. Wait and see, time will tell. And every mother's standard admonition: always wear clean underwear. Now I hear those words passed by my daughter to Mom's great-granddaughters. I am very proud of my mother and all she gave us.

No tribute to my mother would be complete without recognition of her deep and abiding faith. Her devotion as a Catholic never faltered and was a source of inspiration and strength throughout her life.

Mom, you know you are a good Mother by how much your children love you.

*Mary Ellen Westlie*

**Madge Westlie**, Minot resident for nearly 70 years, died Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, in Rio Verde, Arizona. Her death occurred at a second home she and her husband Charles maintained at 26015 North Lago Lane in Rio Verde, 85263, for more than 30 years. She was 89 years old.

She was born Feb. 24, 1920, on the family farm near Karlsruhe, ND, a daughter of Johannes and Magdalena (Hager) Voller. Baptized Magdalene A. Voller, she was raised there, attended area schools and was valedictorian of her high school graduation class in Drake, ND. She moved to Minot where she met Mr. Westlie and was employed as a dental assistant prior to their marriage June 21, 1943, in Minot. Later she worked with her husband when he operated Minot Flying Service, which trained Navy pilots in conjunction with Minot State University, prior to his association with Westlie Motor Company in Minot.

Madge and Chuck were partners in virtually everything they did. That included her being able to be with him during his World War II service with the Air Force in which he was stationed at various points throughout the United States. After the war they settled in Minot where they raised their children and were involved in a number of activities. They hunted, fished, golfed, and traveled the world together, spending winters in Mazatlan, Mexico, before purchasing their Rio Verde home. She took up trap shooting with her husband and in time won a state women's championship in the sport. She was an avid bridge player, both with her husband and other couples as well as with women friends. She enjoyed entertaining in the couple's home, honing her skills and her reputation as an excellent cook.

She supported a number of charities, both in Minot and Rio Verde. Catholic charities were most important to her, along with Sunshine Acres in Rio Verde, an organization that aids orphaned and other children in need.

She was a member of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Minot and of St. Dominic's Catholic Mission in Rio Verde. She also was a member of the church choir there. She was a member of the Minot Country Club and of various committees in the women's division of the club, and of the country club in Rio Verde. She was a member of the Hogan Society Board of Regents that serves the Minot Catholic Schools.

**Surviving:** husband Charles; son, John C. Westlie, Minot; daughter, Mary Ellen Westlie, Littleton, CO; granddaughter, Robynn L. Thomas, Laramie, WY; great-granddaughters, Hunter and Taylor Thomas; sisters, Rose Voller and Bertha "Bert" Peloquin, both of St. Paul, MN; a brother-in-law, James Westlie and his wife Maidie of Scottsdale, AZ, and Minot; a sister-in-law, June Keating and her husband Irv of Grand Rapids, MN. A number of nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents and nine brothers and sisters, Anton, John, Bennie, Eva, Anna, Katherine, Adam, Regina and Elizabeth, her daughter-in-law, Sylvia Westlie, and brother-in-law, Gordon Westlie.