



Lynelle Brown

May 18, 1950 - August 3, 2024

Lynelle Brown, 74, passed away Saturday, August 3, 2024, at Orrville Pointe Nursing Home after an extended illness.

Lynelle was born on May 18, 1950, in her childhood town of Billings, Montana, to the late John Richmond Hartpence and Bernice Elnore Olsen-Hartpence. Lynelle became a devoted member of the Baha'i faith in her youth. At the age of 21 Lynelle traveled to British Honduras as part of a service project.

Lynelle and her late husband, David A. Brown, raised their family in Custer, SD. They welcomed and cared for foster children in their home before and after raising their own children. They permanently welcomed one child into their home by adopting their beloved Ogala Sioux daughter Avis (age 2, born 1974) who was born with a severe form of osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bones disease) This was immediately prior to conceiving Johanna (1977), Benjamin (1978), and Brian (1979). Lynelle was a licensed practical nurse who worked at South Dakota Developmental Center. Prior to that she was a volunteer EMT with the Custer ambulance service and worked as a dispatcher for the local sheriff's office.

Once their children were college age, Lynelle and her husband moved to Biddeford, Maine so David could work as a physical therapy professor at the University of New England. Lynelle gained employment with the Maine Area

Agency on Aging where she completed nutrition assessments for the Meals on Wheels program. She worked full time until the day it was discovered that she had a large aneurysm which required an immediate craniotomy for clipping. The 2009 procedure was successful in saving her physical life, however it left her with a devastating brain injury resulting in her losing her cognitive independence. She sacrificed her friends and familiarity when unselfishly following her daughter Johanna's move to Ontario, Ohio in 2014 so they could be closer to the Gilland family.

She leaves to cherish in her memory her daughter, Johanna Lee (David) Gilland; sons, Benjamin Aaron (Deirdre) Imagire and Brian Thomas (Silvita) Brown; sisters, Eunice (Donn Smith) Hartpence and Sylvia (Robert) Morrison; grandchildren, Kaden Gilland, Arianna Diaz Brown, Elina Gilland, Khalil Imagire, Elon Imagire, Raven Gilland, and Bahiyyih Imagire; a host of relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; spouse, David A. Brown; daughter, Avis W. Myers-Brown; brothers, William Hartpence, Charles Hartpence and Joseph Hartpence.

The family has entrusted Small's Funeral Services with the private arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ John H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lynelle Brown.

John H. - August 09, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SB

“ David and Lynelle Brown were two of the most wonderful people on this planet. Lynelle was the sister-I-never-had. Lynelle was immensely kind, gracious, giving, caring, and loving. She looked after me and my sons, Matt and Bill, although we were miles apart. Avis, Johanna, Ben, and Brian could not have had a better mother. We will miss Lynelle, but we will cherish and remember her always and forever.

With my love,
Stephen Brown

Stephen Brown - August 04, 2024 at 05:54 PM