

Do not stand
By my grave, and weep.
I am not there,
I do not sleep--
I am the thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints in snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle, autumn rain.
As you wake with morning's hush,
I am the swift, up-flinging rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight,
I am the day transcending night.
Do not stand
By my grave, and cry--
I am not there,
I did not die.



Family Receive Friends
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home
Broadus, MT

Funeral Services
Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
Powder River Congregational Church
Broadus, MT

Officiating
Pastor Laura Lee Ullrich

Speaker
Scott Hagman
Abbi Freston

Eulogy
Holly Olson

Musicians
Cherry Dawson & Aree David

Pallbearers
Shawn Hayes, Jack Perkovich, Trevor Hagman
Jack Hagman, LB Freston, CJ Gaskill
Kevin Samuelson, Brian Morgan, & Kyle Hodgkiss

Final Resting Place
Valley View Cemetery
Broadus, MT

*Following the Funeral Service, a luncheon will be
held at the VFW in Broadus.
Everyone is welcome.*

Arrangements By
Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home

In Loving
M E M O R Y



*Melanie Ann
Samuelson*

JULY 10, 1951 - FEBRUARY 5, 2025



Celebrating A LIFE



In the early morning hours of February 5th, 2025, Melanie Ann Samuelson passed away in her daughter's home in Rapid City, South Dakota after a courageous battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family. Melanie was 73 years old.

Melanie Ann Hagman was born July 10th, 1951, in Hot Springs, South Dakota. She was the first child of John L. (Jack) Hagman and Leona Means Hagman.

Melanie's story began on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota along the White River.

Soon after in 1953, Jack and Lee bought a homestead on Thompson Creek in Montana near Ridge. Lee and Melanie stayed back in South Dakota and Chadron, Nebraska until Jack could make a home of the two small cabins that were on the ranch. He needed to put in a floor over the dirt and add another room between the two structures to accommodate a kitchen. It's said to have been "rustic".

Soon after, brothers and sisters joined the family. Melanie, being the oldest, was always the leader. Her Dad called her Spike. Her siblings dubbed her "Red Dog Leader".

She started her education at the Ormesher School which was 2 miles away from the house.

When she was 6 years old her dad figured that Spike was old enough to drive herself to school, which she did on an 8N Tractor. That was the beginning of her driving career, I guess.

Jack and Lee rented a house in Belle Fourche during the winter of her 2nd or 3rd grade year, but her and her siblings revolted. They wanted to go back home to Ridge. Within those years the Ormesher School had closed so they had to go to the Ridge School which was about 10 miles from home. Melanie, being a seasoned driver at the age of 9 and in the 4th grade, was allowed to drive herself and her brothers and sisters in the Buick. They no doubt enjoyed the heater and comfortable seats.

After she graduated the 8th grade her Dad sent her to visit family in California. She had fond memories of seeing the ocean, spending time with family, and even going to Las Vegas.

Her freshman year she moved to Broadus and boarded in town with the Kaler family. Soon after she met the love of her life, Carl Samuelson.

After losing her father in a tragic car accident, Lee rented a house in Broadus and Melanie and her siblings moved to town. Lee had the ranch to take care of so Melanie was now in charge of her brothers and sisters during the week. A job she was proud to do. She loved Charlie, Jackie, Scott, Lisa, and Calla with all her heart. They were always one of her dearest and closest bonds.

Carl and Melanie married on August 11th, 1969, at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Broadus. They moved to the Samuelson Ranch and had 4 children, Amy Lee, Holly Virginia, Carrie Ann and John Carl. She was a wonderful mother and made a happy home. Melanie and Carl were married for 50 years when Carl passed away on November 21st, 2019, after his own battle with cancer.

Melanie was a fantastic cook and enjoyed her flower beds and all the things that mothers do BUT... what she really loved was camping, fishing, hunting, helping her children and nieces and nephews build forts in the creek and string up tree swings. She was even known to have ridden an antelope! Her Hagman family had moved to Utah shortly after she got married but she was able to see them every year, often staying for a couple weeks. She treasured the time she had with them and they with her. She remained the leader of the pack until she passed, she was always their guiding light and anchor, and the matriarch after their mother, Leona, passed in 2012.

After a time and their children were off to school; Melanie got a job at the Powder River Manor working in the kitchen and loved it. She worked in the kitchen for several years until an opening for the Social Services Director became available. That's when she found her niche. She enjoyed that tremendously. She had the most respect and love for all of the residents and her coworkers which spilled out into every person that she knew. (And she knew everyone!)

Melanie also drove a school bus route (an actual bus, not a tractor), worked for Alderman Oil Company, worked as a dispatcher for Powder River County Sheriff's Office and volunteered for many church activities. The last number of years she was a driver for the Powder River Transit. She drove her neighbors and friends over good roads and bad, long or short distances, doctor appointments or fun filled field trips until she finally retired at the age of 71. This time was very special to her and she truly believed that it was an invaluable service to the community that she held so dear. She had worked for the county for over 40 years. She hated to leave her "people" but as her health failed, she reluctantly made the choice to go.

Her ability to make and foster friendships was truly something to be admired. Everyone that knew her loved her. Her love language was simply the perfect card or a small, meaningful gift, a candle that reminded her of someone, or a little pack of Fig Newtons for the grandkids on the way out of town. She always had a quick smile and warm personality that made you feel heard, appreciated, and respected. Her friends and family will never forget her and will forever miss her terribly. God speed Spike, Sis, Aunt Mel, Momma, Grammy... Rest in peace Melanie Ann Hagman Samuelson.

Melanie was preceded in death by her parents John L. and Leona; husband Carl; sister Jackie; grandparents John and Ruth Hagman; and grandmother Avis Ferguson.

Melanie is survived by her 4 children, Amy (Russ) Betlaf, Holly (Bret) Olson, Carrie Lombardi and John Carl Samuelson; brothers Charles (Lynda) Hagman, Scott (Vickie) Hagman; sisters Lisa (Howard) Betts; and Calla Jo (Larry) Freston; grandchildren Neddie (Kyle) Holum, Kali (Grant) Gatlin, Shawn Carl Hayes, Madelyn Perkovich, Jack Perkovich, Alec Olson, Lexi Adolf, Natalie Adolf, Samuel Lombardi, Jake Kuka, Ali Kuka, Rhett Glover; great grandchildren, Emory Gatlin, Morgan Hayes, Gary Gatlin, Marilyn Gatlin and Bearett Holum and numerous beloved nieces and nephews.