



## Mrs. Deanna Sawers

May 11, 1938 - January 7, 2018

With deep gratitude in our hearts, we said a tearful final good-bye to our beloved Deanna on January 7, 2018. Deanna was a strong, determined and proud woman. Mother to six daughters and the loyal, loving wife of 61 years to her husband Bill, she taught us many life lessons simply by how she lived each day of her life. Her enduring commitment to “family first” is a value we will strive to emulate. Her love for her family was unconditional, each of us so fortunate for the active role she took in our lives. Deanna’s energy and zest for life was an inspiration. If there was a job to be done, she was the first to show up and the last to leave. She was ever generous with her time. At work, volunteering or at play, she never hesitated to get involved, quietly leading the way. She was a true friend, a hard worker and a tireless volunteer. Deanna will be remembered for her love of sport and active living. Growing up in rural Alberta, you could find her on the ball diamond in the summer and at the curling rink or skating in the winter. She cherished her time outdoors; skiing, hiking, camping and gardening. She looked forward to vacations, exotic or simple. And, she never turned down an offer to go dancing. Life was not always easy but when she got knocked down, she never failed to pick herself up, dust herself off and proudly walk on. Deanna’s vibrant, energetic life was cut short by ALS. In spite of the many challenges living with this disease, Deanna continued to be our teacher by demonstrating to us her resilience, adaptability and the gracious acceptance of her limitations. Through her example, we learned to embrace the person she was becoming

rather than mourn the person we were losing. Her illness further united our family. We will treasure the gift of family time spent traveling to places afar and the recent road-trip back in time, gatherings with extended family, dancing at any opportunity, discovering watercolour painting when she could no longer grip a pencil, endless games of cards, quiet drives into the countryside and making many new friends on our journey through her illness. Deanna will be forever loved and remembered by her six daughters, Brenda Sawers (Glen Springsteel), Cathy Ens (Dale), Charlene Sawers (Kris Basford), Billie-Lou Laskosky (Ken McClennon), Lynn Johnson (Kevin), and Laurie Allan (Scott). She was a very proud grandma to 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her dear sisters and brothers-in-law, Joan and Irving Bablitz, Ardina Armitage, Arlene and Gene Shtokal and Ed Dutka, her sister-in-law, Irene Sackett and many nieces and nephews. Deanna was predeceased by her husband Bill Sawers and her sister Ardith Dutka. We extend our sincere gratitude to the wonderful staff at Sunrise Village and the associated AHS staff. Over the past 2 years, their kindness and special care provided our Mom with a wonderful home filled with love and dignity. We would also like to thank the compassionate team of professionals at the ALS Clinic and the ALS Society for helping shepherd us through the challenging stages of this cruel disease.

A Celebration of a Life well lived will take place at the Salvation Army Foothills Church in High River on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. Donations in Deanna's name can be made to the Salvation Army Foothills 117 2nd Avenue SE, High River, AB, Canada, T1V 1G4 or the ALS Society of Alberta 7874 10 St NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8W1. To send condolences and view Deanna's Tribute Page please visit [www.lylereeves.com](http://www.lylereeves.com) . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 17. 2:30 PM (MT)

Salvation Army Foothills Church  
117 - 2nd Ave. SE  
High River, AB (CA)

# Tribute Wall

CO

“ *Colleen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**colleen** - March 30, 2018 at 01:55 AM

CO

“ *My heart was broken to hear of Dee's passing. She was like a mother to me. Dee was one of the most amazing people I have ever met in my life. Always willing to help anyone who asked. She worked harder than anyone I have ever met. Laurie and Brenda, your Mom meant the world to me. I loved her like she was my own Mom. I will always remember her as my hero, one of the best people I have ever known. She was an angel in my life.*

*Colleen Carr*

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**colleen** - March 30, 2018 at 01:52 AM

CH

“ *Laurie, Scott, Clark, Hunter, Myan; Tasha, Sunny, Keylan, Parker, Shea; Chantal, Cody, Gracie and Hanna;*

*Thinking of you all today as you honor the beautiful person your Mom, Grandmother and Great Grandmother was. Always lending a helping hand in so many ways.*

*May you treasure all those special times you shared together. Hugs to you all.*

*Cindy, Garnet, Jared, Jess and Jayden*

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**Cindy & Garnet Hammer** - March 17, 2018 at 01:29 PM

US

“ *Cathy, Dale, Georgia, and the Sawers Family. I love seeing this picture of your mom as it captures her beautiful essence, .... that smile, her eyes, great skin and the memories of a truly phenomenal trip in her honour to Norway. She is truly beaming with pride and love. You girls made her hear sing and her sole dance!*

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**Ursula Simpson** - February 19, 2018 at 07:06 PM

US

*...her 'heart' sing ..... !*

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**Ursula Simpson** - February 19, 2018 at 07:08 PM

GC

“ *Laurie, Scott and Family.  
Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Gerry and Glenda Cutforth** - January 18, 2018 at 01:08 AM

ML

“ *Maureen Loven lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Maureen Loven** - January 16, 2018 at 10:55 AM

ML

*Laurie, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family in regard to the recent passing of your mom. I remember your mom working at the Cadillac Kids clothing store, shortly after I moved to High River. She was always very kind and friendly and we would always have a good visit while shopping. I also remember her working at the Salvation Army when I'd drop by to donate clothing. Your mom was such an energetic person— you will surely miss her but you will always have her memory in your heart.*

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**Maureen Loven** - January 16, 2018 at 11:06 AM

JL

“ *Grandma Dee, you made a difference in so many lives. You made us better just knowing you. With love, CPT Fuzzy and Major Mom*

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**Jim & Leslie** - January 15, 2018 at 09:47 PM

BS

“ *So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing Laurie. Our sincerest condolences to you and your family.*

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**Blair & Darlene Sterling** - January 14, 2018 at 10:47 PM

KA

“ *My heart goes out to you Laurie and all to of your family. Deanna was a remarkable person. I remember how capable she was in running Cadillac Kids children's wear and later working at the Salvation Army store. Her retail experience from years at Sears gave her the polish of a professional. She taught me how to tie a big bow with little girls dress ribbons. She had lots of experience dressing and sewing for her own daughters. I think she loved to see the little ones all decked out. A wonderful mother and local personality has passed. I am so sorry she is gone.*

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**Karen Angell** - January 13, 2018 at 02:27 PM

BM

“ Sincere condolences to the Sawers family on the passing of mother Deanna. I will always remember the old days at Burns when we'd tease Bill to have three more daughters and start his all-girls ball team! Deanna would have been a wonderful coach. Peace and strength to all . Bill Matheson

Bill Matheson - January 13, 2018 at 12:46 PM

KN

Laurie and family, my condolences are with you on the loss of your dear mother, god Bless, Kathy Niemans

kathy Niemans - March 13, 2018 at 11:24 PM

KA

“ So sorry to hear of your mom's passing, she was a special lady. It was so great to see her when you girls did the road trip last year. Deepest condolences to your entire family.

Karen Armitage - January 13, 2018 at 02:13 AM

DC

“ Laurie, Brenda, Cathy, Charlene, Billie-Lou & Lynne...remembering your Mom & sending our heartfelt condolences...

"Do not look for me in this place, for I am not here.

Instead look for me in the hearts of those whom I loved, for it is there I shall always be"

Sincerely,  
Debbie, Craig & family

Debbie & Craig - January 12, 2018 at 11:59 PM



EG

“ We lovingly remember our niece "Dee Dee" for her kindness and beautiful smile. Her love for her children was never ending which I know was reciprocal.

*Our deepest sympathy goes to her family. She will not be forgotten.*

*Auntie Margaret and Uncle Emery*

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**Emery & Margaret Grosland** - January 12, 2018 at 09:44 PM

WG

“ Warren Grosland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers



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**Warren Grosland** - January 12, 2018 at 05:16 PM

SK

“ So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. It was so awesome you daughters all managed to make your mom's last years so precious and return to her the love and affection she clearly imparted to all of you growing up. You have those last memories and the knowledge you did the best you could for her to the end. Hugs for you all.

*Sharon Kaczowski*

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**Sharon Kaczowski** - January 12, 2018 at 10:41 AM

AL

“ So very sorry to hear of your mom's passing, Billie Lou. Much sympathy' to you & your family ❤️ Joe & Opie

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**Andrea Lansing** - January 12, 2018 at 09:06 AM

DB

“ *Darlene Beutler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Darlene Beutler** - January 12, 2018 at 08:46 AM

RG

“ *So sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. Please accept our deepest condolences.*

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**Roberta Grosland** - January 12, 2018 at 07:21 AM

AS

“ *Alice Secrest lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Alice Secrest** - January 11, 2018 at 10:32 PM

CL

“ *Carol Lyall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Carol Lyall** - January 11, 2018 at 07:28 PM

TB

“ *Tricia And Michael Bliss lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



Tricia and Michael Bliss - January 11, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ *Kori Armitage sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



Kori Armitage - January 11, 2018 at 02:41 PM

KF

“ *Brenda, Cathy, Charlene, Billie-Lou, Lynn & Laurie  
Sorry to hear of your mom's passing - she was a beautiful person  
inside and out and the best Auntie ever!*

*Love Karen*

Karen Fleischer - January 11, 2018 at 12:12 PM

BE

“ *I'm so sorry that you girls have lost your mom. I know she is in  
heaven dancing with your dad again. Cherish all the great memories  
you have made with her. Thinking of you all at this difficult time.*

Bonny Edmondson - January 11, 2018 at 12:33 AM

JC

*Never nice to lose a Mom..... What a great lady !!! Hugs to all.*

Joanne Crerar - January 11, 2018 at 11:38 AM

Julie  
Alm-  
Shearer

“ *Julie Alm-Shearer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Julie Alm-Shearer** - January 11, 2018 at 12:31 AM

EL

“ *Eleanor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Eleanor** - January 10, 2018 at 11:25 PM

EL

“ *Herb & Elli Fuchs*

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**Eleanor** - January 10, 2018 at 11:23 PM

JG

“ *Jordy And Susan Gittel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Jordy and Susan Gittel** - January 10, 2018 at 10:32 PM

TP

“ *Losing a parent is never easy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family*

*Geoffrey and Tracy Phillips*



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**Tracy Phillips** - January 10, 2018 at 09:31 PM

LO

“ *Linda And Bob O'Neill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Linda and Bob O'Neill** - January 10, 2018 at 04:57 PM

MS

“ *Monty & Susan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Monty & Susan** - January 10, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ *Sharon Doll lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Sharon Doll** - January 09, 2018 at 01:03 PM

CC

“ *Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



Cathy Couey - January 09, 2018 at 11:15 AM

SC

“ *Sue Christensen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



Sue Christensen - January 09, 2018 at 08:37 AM

ED

*My condolences go out to the family of Deanna. Deanna has impacted my work for the better and has reinforced my choice in this career path, and even though our time was short, I am glad she came into my life.*

Ekaterina Degtiareva - January 09, 2018 at 01:26 PM

CG

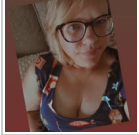
*My Sincere Condolences go out to the Sawers Family on the passing of a dear Mother. May God guide her to the Land of Peacefulness! Sorry about your Mother Billie-Lou... 🌹🌹*

Char Grimm - January 11, 2018 at 12:12 AM

RS

*Our Condolences go out to the girls and their families in the loss of your Mom. I only got to know her a bit when she moved into "The Lodge" and got to know my Mom. Of Course we have known Brenda for years but never met the other girls. Please know that we are keeping each of the family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.*

Richard VAn Schaick - January 12, 2018 at 04:40 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family. I will always treasure my time with Deanna. I will miss our impromptu dance sessions, she was a great dance partner. Our walks hand and hand and our laughs together. She was blessed with a beautiful family you knew she loved so much, she was always so happy to see her girls. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. I hope you are dancing again in the stars with your husband Deanna. Hugs*



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**Stephanie Grant** - January 09, 2018 at 12:58 AM



“ *Tillie. Amanda. Tara Ring sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Tillie. Amanda. Tara Ring** - January 08, 2018 at 11:12 PM



“ *Tammy Beach lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers*



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**Tammy Beach** - January 08, 2018 at 09:11 PM

PZ

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Deanna's family during this difficult time and the days that lay ahead. We will miss seeing her and her smiles at Sunrise Village. Cherish and hold close to your hearts all your memories you have as they will help you through the tough days. Sincerely Eldon Couey and family  
Len and Pat Zebedee and family



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**Pat Zebedee** - January 08, 2018 at 06:39 PM

TF

“ Tanya Long & Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Deanna Sawers



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**Tanya Long & Family** - January 08, 2018 at 03:09 PM

BH

“ Sincere condolences to Deanna's family. We will remember Dee as a cheerful friend who was kind, helpful and always full of energy. We will miss the sparkle in her eyes. Peace to Dee and her loving family.

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**Bill & Dorothy Holmes** - January 08, 2018 at 10:33 AM