



Ms. Margaret May "Mert" Ryan

May 21, 1939 - May 13, 2024

Mert (Margaret May) Ryan, 84, passed on May 13th, 2024. She was born in Nanton, Alberta and spent her early years in the back hills west of Nanton. She later moved to Hartel with her parents and Grandmother where she attended Meadowvale school and the High School at Royalties. Over the years, she lived south of Longview, High River, Grande Prairie (Sexsmith), Turner Valley, and Black Diamond, but always thought of the farm near Nanton as her home place.

The youngest of 6 children, Mert was very close with her sisters, with whom she spoke with daily. She was predeceased by her beloved siblings and missed them dearly. She leaves behind two children, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and two grand dogs. Her grandkids affectionately called her "Grandma Pickles." She made the best garlic dills around.

Though fiercely independent and always one to forge her own path, Mert maintained dear lifelong friendships. Her devoted friendship and tenacity will be missed.

She preferred her own company often but was never far from the phone for a chat. Even if you hadn't seen her in a while, she was thinking of you. As a master worrier, you could expect a call from her to see if you were alive if there was a storm, flood, accident, etc. in your 200km radius. You always

knew you were on her mind.

When she was no longer able to stay in her trailer, she wasn't happy about it and missed her place. She tried to make the best of it but, as she'd say, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. She passed on May 13th in her care home room where she had spent her last days thinking of friends and family past, and reminding us that she did not want a funeral.

She resolved to let a few of us gather to sing "I'll Fly Away" as we lay her to rest. If you know that one, sing a verse or two when you think of her.

We're honouring her wishes and are writing this so that you may take a moment in her memory. Perhaps drive the Highwood Pass, listen to some Merle Haggard, play a song on your guitar, or call your loved ones.

May she be at peace now. Rest well, our Mert. Call us when you get home, will ya?

Cemetery Details

Nanton Cemetery

Range Road 282
Nanton, AB (CA)

Tribute Wall

RD

“ I have known Mert since before I was married, (68 years) and cherish the memories I have of her over these years. When she started her hair dressing business on their farm I would sometimes ride my horse down to check our cattle. As their farm was on the way I would get my hair done on the way home. She always remarked about making me look good "just to crawl on a damn horse!!". When she moved her business to High River I continued going there until she moved to the north country. We reconnected when she moved back south and settled in Black Diamond. She did hair dressing at the Seniors Lodge and also started a janitorial business which, with other places, included the office of the Town of Black Diamond where I worked. After I retired it was always so pleasant to keep in touch, rehash old times, and have a good visit. Rest in peace little Friend. Rose Dayment

Rose Dayment - May 18, 2024 at 10:20 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mert's passing. She was such a good women, and we had some great conversations of years gone by.



Cathy Bradley - May 17, 2024 at 11:33 AM

CN

“ Sincere sympathy to Mert's family. We are keeping you all in our prayers at this time. Love o all,
Sam & Wilma, Cyril & Bev, David & Barb



Cyril and Bev Norrie - May 16, 2024 at 08:25 PM

RM

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mert’s passing. Our condolences to her family.
Roy & Joy

Roy & Joy Muir - May 16, 2024 at 11:40 AM

VY

“ Mert's Family, Mert was truly one of a kind and dearly loved. We missed seen you around these last years and at the Rising Sun. She was a most caring lady and will always have a special place in my heart. Blessings, Virginia Yarjau

Virginia Yarjau - May 16, 2024 at 09:34 AM

JH

“ My sincere condolences to Mert’s family in the loss of your Mom, grandma and great grandma. I became acquainted with Mert a number of years ago at work on the long term care unit at Oilfields Hospital and later she even assisted me when I moved down the street from her. I would see her every so often and have a little visit with her as she was passing by my place. The obituary you have composed for her is very well done and is a wonderful tribute to her!
🙏☐ Sincerely, Janice Howie

Janice Howie - May 15, 2024 at 04:07 PM

LYLE REEVES
FUNERALS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lyle Reeves Funerals - May 15, 2024 at 01:51 PM



Lovely picture!

Janice Howie - May 15, 2024 at 04:09 PM