



Ms. Rachel Marie Tollefson

August 17, 1919 - May 2, 2018

Tollefson, Rachel Marie 98-2/3 years old, longtime resident of Minnetonka Minnesota, died in her sleep mid- morning May 2nd, 2018, at the Palm Springs, California, home of long-time friends of hers with whom she spent the last almost seven weeks of her life.

Surrounded by friends, out of town visitors, playful dogs, birds, flowers and sunshine, she died peacefully of complications related to old age. A member of the Pembina Band of Chippewa Indians, she was born August 17th, 1919, on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota, daughter of Napoleon Laverdure and Mary Ann Primeau. She was one of thirteen siblings, all of whom she survived. After her education she enjoyed a full career, serving in several locations around the country with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. Predeceased by Louis "Tolly" Tollefson, her beloved husband, she preferred to live as a widow for the 57 years after his demise because, as she often noted, "Why marry again after you have already had the best?" A woman of great but quiet faith, the sincerity of her devotion inspired many. So too did her love of life, something she lived peacefully and courteously but also to the fullest. Never one to decline an invitation, however great or small, she decided long ago that if someone was kind enough to want her to join them, she would neither hesitate nor agonize over whether she had time or not but, rather, would simply accept. As a result, she had friends of all ages, attended numerous events with countless people, and did everything from visiting with those living nearby, to following closely the school progress of her youngest neighbors while helping older neighbors perfect their English, to riding an inner tube behind a ski boat on her 80th birthday, and traveling widely and often over many decades. She is survived by seventeen nieces and nephews, numerous great- nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, great-great nephews, and close friends of many ages in several states. She will be greatly missed. Rachel was strong but kind, gentle yet quietly adventurous, sincerely welcoming and always appreciative. A visitation will be held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, May 29th, 2018, at Duschane Chapel, 4239 West Broadway Avenue, Robbins- dale, Minnesota. The funeral will be Wednesday, May 30th, 2018, at Saint Mary of the Lake, 105 Forestview Lane North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, with an in-church viewing at 10:00 AM, the funeral service at 11:00 AM, and a simple reception following at noon. Interment will be at 1:00 PM, Friday, June 1st, 2018, in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Washburn-

McReavy.com Davies Chapel 612-377-2203

Service pending