Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great Grand Mother and Sister, Mary Ann (Chasing Hawk) Helper made her journey to the Spirit World on September 14, 2020 at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

MaryAnn was born on December 21, 1945 to Leo and Lizzie (Tree Top) Chasing Hawk at Little Eagle, SD. She attended elementary school at Little Eagle Day School and graduated high school from Standing Rock Community High School in Fort Yates, ND. She worked for the Food Distribution Program for 38 years. She loved going to the national conferences every year and was known for bringing her star quilts for door prizes.

There are so many beautiful memories about MaryAnn. Wilma remembers her teaching us to play “Jacks” around the kerosene lamp in our one room log house. Also, her and sister Fern making KaBoBo bread for her younger brothers.

MaryAnn married Bill Helper and out of this union, they had four girls and one boy. She was proud that “Uncle Bill” played softball for the Blazers for many years. She was also proud when Captain participated in the National Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

She was best known for her Star Quilts. Beautiful designs that she came up with. When Phil Jackson coached the Chicago Bulls, she made an image of a bull and took it to Minneapolis where she presented it to Coach Jackson. She was asked to make a star quilt for Kyrie Irving’s return to our people. She made two quilts within two days that were presented to Kyrie. With pride, Char W.M. put the Standing Rock logo star quilt on Kyrie’s shoulder during his naming. Cleveland Cavaliers NBA quilt was also presented to him at the same time. Thank You MaryAnn. She was featured in Land’s End Catalog and interviewed by KFYR-TV in Bismarck, ND.

MaryAnn also made all the quilts for her father when the Annual Leo Chasing Hawk Tournament was held in Little Eagle and McLaughlin. Some of the best basketball players competed in the tourney. Her sewing talents will be greatly missed. Her daughter Wilma, is currently making quilts, a talent that was passed on by her mother and grandmother, Lizzie Chasing Hawk.

The family would like to thank everyone for their condolences and prayers in our time of need.

MaryAnn was survived by her children, Billie Jo, Willow, Wilma, and Bill Jr. and their families. She is also survived by her two younger brothers, Delbert and Everett Chasing Hawk, grandchildren; Seth Helper, Michelle/Brady Claymore, Hailee, Gavin, Charlize, Sidney, Wallace Sees the Elk Lacey/Jeremy Red Bear, Lashae, JR, Tae, Kyler, Tylee/Ashton Fourth, Azdon, Chelsea Yellow Earrings, Keagon, Cassie Yellow Earrings, Jarik, LaMarious, Lucas, Lenaya, Damien Yellow Earrings.

MaryAnn was preceded in death by her husband, William Helper Sr., parents Leo and Lizzie Chasing Hawk, daughter Michelle, grandsons, Tyler and Corey, brother, Walter Chasing Hawk, sister, Fern Standing Crow.

In Loving Memory

MaryAnn Helper
December 21, 1945
September 14, 2020
Mother, Grandmother
and Great Grandmother

A million times we thought of you,
A million times we cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place
No one could ever fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
But you didn’t go alone.
For part of us went with you
The day God took you home.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
MaryAnn Helper
74 Years 8 Months 13 Days

BORN: December 21, 1945
Little Eagle, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY: September 14, 2020
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

WAKE SERVICES:
7:00 PM, Thursday, September 24, 2020
Elkhorn UCC Church
Little Eagle, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE:
1:00 PM, Friday, September 25, 2020
Little Eagle Pow-Wow Grounds
Little Eagle, South Dakota

CLERGY: Pastor Helena (CE) Martinez

MUSIC: Grand River Singers

CASKETBEARERS:
William Helper Jr. ~ Seth Helper ~ Gavin Little Eagle
Jeremy Red Bear ~ Brady Claymore ~ Ashton Fourth
Chance Harrison ~ John DeMarrias

HONORARY BEARERS:
Fern Has Horns, Nina Mata, Phyllis White, Helmina Makes Him First,
Red Gates and his crew at the Food Distribution Center,
Karen Chamberlain, Blanche Lawrence, Phil Bird Horse and family,
Char White Mountain and family, Brian Defender and family,
Joe White Mountain Jr. and family, Arlene Chasing Hawk,
Thomas Grillot, Sanford Health, Pearl Three Legs,
Leo Brown Otter III, Gloria Laundreaux, Toni Eagleman III
and all her friends and relatives.

INTERMENT:
Elkhorn UCC Cemetery
Little Eagle, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home.