JoAnne (Shorty) Butterfield was born to the late Duane Peterson and Carrollee Strand, on July 21, 1951, in Crosby, ND. JoAnne graduated from Divide County High School in 1962 and received an Associate’s Degree in Elementary Education from Williston State College in 1992.

JoAnne was not afraid to try new things. Over her lifetime she had a variety of occupations that ranged from being a CNA for disabled children to a bartender/blackjack dealer for many years. JoAnne had a care-free spirit. She greatly enjoyed sitting under the stars at the lake with family and friends. She loved life and wanted her days to be filled with laughter, stories, and great food. There are many fond memories of her standing in the kitchen with bits of tomato, rhubarb, or apple on her apron inspired with creating a better tasting recipe for her canning delicacies. She had a passion for gardening that was undeniable. Any kind of garden: flower, vegetable, and rock became a work of art. She also had the ability to turn fabric, flowers, and cord into masterpieces. Things were not always easy for her, but no matter what happened she was determined to turn the life-altering event into a new beginning. She had a determination like no other and when she set her mind to something, she accomplished it. Through her actions she instilled this great quality into her children.

“What would mom do” became a motto her children thought of later on in her life. She searched out ways to help others at her church and in the community. It was not uncommon for JoAnne to pick up random people walking outside of Wal-Mart to give them a ride home. She had a huge heart for volunteering and received an award for her efforts. Her compassion for people in need was an inspiration to many. She had a smile that brought happiness even to the grumpiest of subjects.

JoAnne is survived by her children and grandchildren: Jennifer Tanner, her children, Aleisa, Victoria, and Ainslen; Rina (Aron) Tunstall, their children, Danielle, Tristan, and Hannah; and Amanda Whittle and her daughter, Evelyn; her sister, MaryLynne (Chris) Sharts; and brothers, Kevin and Robert Peterson.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Carrollee Strand; biological father, Duane Peterson; and dad, Robert “Bud” Strand.
If I could do a little deed
Of kindness everyday,
If I could bring a little cheer
Along life’s way,
If I could speak a loving word
Of comfort to the sad,
Then life would be worth living
By making someone glad.

If I can say a little prayer
For someone feeling blue
If I can chase the clouds away
And let the sunshine through,
If I can have a little faith
Like a grain of mustard seed,
Then life will be worth living
By helping someone in need.