



Darlene Klemek

February 16, 1936 - March 21, 2019

The memorial mass for Darlene Klemek of Eagle Bend will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bertha with Father Mitchell Bechtold officiating. A visitation will be held from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service. Darlene Carol Klemek, 83, died peacefully Thursday, March 21, 2019, at Knute Nelson Care Center in Alexandria, MN.

Darlene (Greenwood) Klemek was born Feb. 16, 1936 in rural Otter Tail County near Wrightstown, MN, to parents Clifford and Gladys Greenwood. The fourth of five children, her parents soon bought and moved their family to a farm west of Bertha where Darlene spent the remaining years of her childhood, attended country school, and later graduated from Bertha High School in 1953.

Following graduation, she worked as a telephone operator in Wadena, MN. She then moved to Minneapolis where she worked for Prudential Insurance Company as a bookkeeper. On Sept. 29, 1956 she married Lawrence Klemek at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bertha. After they started their family in December of 1958, they moved to a new home in 1959 in Coon Rapids.

In 1969, Darlene and Lawrence sold their suburban house and bought a farm northwest of Bertha where they moved their family to in early 1970. In 1979, Darlene and Lawrence sold their farm and bought the farm where Darlene grew up. Retiring from dairy farming in 1996, they sold the farm a year later and moved to their home in Eagle Bend.

Nothing in life mattered more to Darlene than her family did. She loved spending time with her husband, her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Darlene was often referred to as "spunky" and "talkative" by those who knew her well. In high school, Darlene and a friend were nicknamed Mutt and Jeff (characters from a comic strip). Darlene was Jeff, a name she was affectionately referred to her entire life, mostly by her brother Cliff.

Always up for an adventure, she got a tattoo and para-sailed, all beyond the age of 70.

Darlene also enjoyed her free time and she spent many hours reading books and going to the library to check out more books. Her normal routine each night before turning out her bedside lamp and falling asleep was to read a chapter or two of a good book. She would often say, "Reading is my sleeping pill."

Darlene was also a hard worker who enjoyed working at several part-time jobs she had held over the years. One of her favorite jobs was working at Wadena Floral. She loved plants and helping customers. But her most beloved job of all was working as the assistant cook for nearly 15 years for Lutheran Social Services (LSS). She helped prepare meals for LSS' Meals on Wheels program at the Senior Center and most recently at the new Hilltop Regional Kitchen, both in Eagle Bend. Darlene also served a two-year term on the board for the Eagle Bend Senior Center. Darlene took great pride in helping those in need and she cherished the friendships she made along the way. She was especially grateful for the special relationships she had with all her co-workers at "Hilltop".

Darlene enjoyed playing bingo at various venues in the area, going to casinos with her husband to play slot machines, playing cards with friends (especially the game smear), taking walks and rides in the country, dining out, making family scrap books, collecting dolls, reading, and decorating her lovely Eagle Bend home. She also enjoyed watching television programs like Wheel of Fortune, 60 Minutes, and programs on the Hallmark Channel.

Darlene also enjoyed watching and feeding wild birds. A fond memory of hers and a story she loved to tell, was the time on the farm as an adult when she discovered bluebirds using her then brand new bluebird houses. While on a walk one summer evening along the pasture fence where the birdhouses were located and nailed to fence posts, Darlene was thrilled at the sight of pretty bluebirds singing and flying about. She would often remark, "Until that day I hadn't seen a bluebird since I had been a little girl." Darlene loved watching her hummingbirds in Eagle Bend, too. She kept her two hummingbird feeders filled with sugar-water all summer long.

A devout Catholic and long-time member of the same church that she and Lawrence were married in, Darlene enjoyed attending Mass each Sunday with her husband and going to the annual church bizarre fund raiser.

A beautiful woman inside and out, Darlene will long be remembered as a woman with a zest for life, always kind and caring, loved laughing as no one else could, and was the world's greatest listener, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend as anyone could be so lucky to have, know, and love.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents Clifford and Gladys Greenwood, her sister Violet Hennagir, sister and brother-in-law Betty and Harold Blegen, and sister and brother-in-law Barb and Marvin Fischer.

Left to cherish Darlene's memories are her loving husband Lawrence, her children Blane Klemek (JoEllen), Barb (Don) Cooney, Stacie (Jim) Kimball; her grandchildren David (BreeAnna) Cooney, Emily Klemek, Nidhal Keddah, Cole Kimball, and Eva Kimball; her great grandchildren Lincoln Headbird and Hudson Cooney; her dear brother Clifford Greenwood, Jr., and many cousins, nieces and nephews, and other dear relatives on both the Greenwood and Klemek sides of her large extended family.

Honorary pallbearers are Lanny Kolpek, Steve Greenwood, Brad Greenwood, Ryan Greenwood, and all of Darlene's former co-workers at Hilltop Regional Kitchen in Eagle Bend.

Active pallbearers are Darlene's grandchildren, David Cooney, Emily Klemek, Nidhal Keddah, Cole Kimball, and Eva Kimball.

Burial will be in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Bertha.

Cemetery

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery - Bertha

43815 County Road 1
Bertha, MN, 56437

Events

MAR 27 Visitation 12:30PM - 02:00PM

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Bertha
205 Cherry Street NW, Bertha, MN, US,
56437

MAR 27 Service 02:00PM - 03:00PM

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Bertha
205 Cherry Street NW, Bertha, MN, US,
56437

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 25, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ So very sweet, a lovely memory of her life and loves! Thank you!

Lori - March 25, 2019 at 09:30 PM



“ Such a beautiful woman!

Brenda - March 25, 2019 at 10:29 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute.

Arnette - March 26, 2019 at 08:25 PM



“ Duane Sibert lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Duane Sibert - March 27, 2019 at 10:44 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Darlene Klemek.



March 26, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ Bruce And Carol Wiese lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Bruce and Carol Wiese - March 26, 2019 at 07:47 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Klemek.



March 25, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ A special lady loved by all. Irene Baron



Irene & Jerry Baron - March 25, 2019 at 09:31 PM



“ Darlene was a very gal and we had our share of good times with her and Larry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her.

Irene & Jerry Baron - March 25, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ 46 files added to the album LifeTributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 25, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Klemek.



March 25, 2019 at 10:14 AM



“ Jane Dettmer lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



jane dettmer - March 25, 2019 at 07:17 AM



“ Jean Kolstad sent a virtual gift in memory of Darlene Klemek



Jean Kolstad - March 24, 2019 at 11:52 PM



“ Sandy South lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Sandy South - March 24, 2019 at 10:08 PM



“ Gene And Mary Denny lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



gene and Mary Denny - March 24, 2019 at 07:17 PM



“ Ginger & Roland Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Ginger & Roland Gilbert - March 24, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darlene Klemek.



March 24, 2019 at 12:45 PM



“ Kevin & Christie Hennagir lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Kevin & Christie Hennagir - March 24, 2019 at 11:20 AM



“ Lanny And Carol lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Lanny and Carol - March 24, 2019 at 09:44 AM



“ Dee Hendershot lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Dee Hendershot - March 24, 2019 at 08:21 AM



“ Bruce & Kim lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Bruce & Kim - March 24, 2019 at 08:02 AM



“ Gene And Mary Denny lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Gene and Mary Denny - March 24, 2019 at 07:55 AM



“ Larry and family, I am saddened by Darlene’s passing and pray for your family’s as you continue living without her. Find strength in the special memories you shared with her. As a friend I will miss her happy greeting. Betty Lipinski



Betty LIPINSKI - March 24, 2019 at 07:52 AM



“ Thank you

Barb - October 21, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Klemek.



March 23, 2019 at 10:58 PM



“ Tabitha Captain lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Tabitha Captain - March 23, 2019 at 08:27 PM



“ Doug And Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Doug and Joan Ostlund - March 23, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Lea And Mike Snyder lit a candle in memory of Darlene Klemek



Lea and Mike Snyder - March 23, 2019 at 07:19 PM