



Alma Bretz

August 28, 1915 - June 8, 2005

Alma E. Olander was born to her parents Swan J. & Anna (Swenson) Olander on August 28, 1915 in rural Bartlett Township. She passed away on June 8th at the Fair Oaks Lodge where she was recovering from surgery before returning to her home. Alma was united in marriage to Ally Bretz on December 31, 1940 in Verndale. They made their life together on a farm until she moved into Wadena 33 years ago. Ally passed away on October 19, 1970. Alma was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church and the Christian Mothers. She enjoyed her time reading, walking, playing Scrabble, gardening, flowers and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Besides her husband, Ally, Alma was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Helmer Olander, Elvin Swenson & Leonard Swenson and her sister Ida Johnson. Alma is survived by her daughters Delores LeVau of Asheville, NC & Bonnie (Wade) O'Malley of Maple Grove; sons Wayne (Mary Ann) Bretz of Kansas City, MO & Phillip (Diane) Bretz of Leesburg, FL; 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Burial will take place next to her husband Ally in the St. Fredericks Catholic Cemetery in Verndale. Honorary pallbearers will be Sharon Hamburger, Peggy Garrard & Gillette Kempf. Active Pallbearers will be Dan Bretz, Ron LeVau, Doug Bretz, Mike Bretz, Brent LeVau, Renny LeVau & Cam O'Malley. [View this Videotribute](#)

Tribute Wall

KO

“ *Didn't know gramma that well but the time I was with her was nice. Was a very nice lady who lead a simple life and loved all her grand/great grandkids. Will miss her.*

Kevin O'Connor - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ *Mistake on 1st line. The time I had spent with her was very nice. Sorry*

Kevin O'Connor - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ *Gramma was the best gramma in the world and I will miss her very much. I am so glad Cassie got to see her. Gramma was always there to give lots of hugs and kisses. She was a great listener when we needed an ear to talk to. We will really miss her a lot. Love you gramma!!!!*

Love, Barbara (Michi) and Cassie

Barbara O'Connor - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *We are all blessed to have known somebody of such energy and vitality. I know we will all carry a little of that 'zest for life' with us forever and pass it on to our little ones. Whenever we see an independent, stubborn streak in our children, we can all think of grandma.*

Rachelle Howard - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Grandma was a great woman, with so much knowledge. she was my penpal for many, many years giving me so much advice, her wisdom and the weather reports... now she's in paradise. Unfortunately for Timothy, he never did get to meet his greatgrandma but there are lots of pictures around so its like he already knows her. She will be missed very very much. Love you all.

Bonita Hutson - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I am very glad I had the chance to know grandma, I looked forward to her letters, and sharing stories with her. I am very glad that we had the chance to meet a few years back and that she got to meet our children, although they were young it will be nice to have the pictures to put stories too! We will all miss her dearly, she will never be forgotten.

Layna LeVau - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am sorry for the loss of Aunt Alma. I remember looking forward to all those summers when we were young and stayed with Alma and Ally and cousins while we went to summer bible school. It was always such fun! And the Sunday fishing trips with both of our whole families. Lots of memories.

Janice (Olander) Bobendrier - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *Family is a wonderful thing and I remember how proud she was of hers.*

I can definately see the family resemblance in my wonderful Daughter-in-Law and prescious grandsons.

I would like to thank Alma for making it possible for my ffamily to be part of her family.

My love and prayers to you all.

Bettie Newbern - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *We will miss Grandma Alma so much. (That is what we all called her.) She was such a joy and inspiration to us all. We loved her very much, but most of all the way she mothered our kids. She was more like a mother than a Grandma. I will miss her at Christmas time especially. I loved to see her face when we handed her the plate of Christmas goodies. She always said I didn't have to do that, but I knew she enjoyed them. She will always be in our fondest memories.*

Daimon LeVau - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM