



Judy Bender

March 20, 1939 - March 15, 2025

A memorial Mass for Judy Bender of Wadena will be held at 11:00a.m. on Monday, March 24, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena. Family and friends may gather at the church on Monday beginning at 9:30a.m. with a Rosary at 9:45, and visitation will continue until the time of the Mass. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

~~~~~  
You are invited to watch the service via live-stream by going to Schuller Family Funeral Homes' FaceBook Page or YouTube Page

~~~~~  
On March 15, 2025, Judy Bender, 85, of Wadena, MN, peacefully passed away with family by her side at her son's home in Litchfield, MN. Compassionate care was graciously provided by Vivie Hospice.

Judith "Judy" Ann Otte was born to Francis and Marguerite (Otte) Thill on March 20, 1939, at Wesley Hospital in Wadena, MN. With the passing of her mother in 1941, Judy and her brother, Peter, were adopted by their grandparents, Joseph and Mary Alice (Granger) Otte. Judy attended St. Ann's Parochial School for eight years and graduated from Wadena High School in 1957.

Judy and Ron's love story began in 1961 at a dance, where a glance turned into a lifetime. Ron's yellow roses graced her doorstep, igniting their courtship.

They exchanged vows on December 1, 1962, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena. They shared their love for 61 years until Ron passed away on August 30, 2024

Judy and Ron lived in Maine and Michigan before returning to Wadena in 1975 with their two sons, Paul and Greg. After 29 years with Merickel Lumber Mills as their office manager, she retired in 2006.

Judy was an unwavering source of constant support and encouragement to those around her. She was proud of her children and grandchildren, selflessly by their side throughout the years.

Forever remembering Judy will be her sons, Paul (Terri) Bender of Litchfield and Greg (Michele) Bender of Williston, ND; grandchildren: Nicole (Adam) Barnett, Kevin (Kami) Bender, Taner Bender, Megan Woods, Mason Bender, Ryia Bender and Nicholas Bender; great grandchildren: Elin Barnett, Cora Barnett and Theo Bender; brother, Peter (Audrey) Otte of Bismarck, ND; along with extended family and numerous friends.

Judy leaves behind a legacy of refined beauty, a presence that will be forever cherished. She taught us how to move through life with a quiet strength to face all things - even the end - with courage and grace. Her soul, as perfectly elegant in life as it is now in eternity, will remain an everlasting symbol of love and support.

Memorials in Judy's name may be directed to Vivie Hospice, 618 Jefferson St N Suite 2, Wadena, MN 56482.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 24. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Rosary

MAR 24. 9:45 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Mass

MAR 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Tribute Wall

KY

“ Judy was one of our favorite customers at Laurie's in Fargo. I got to know Judy and Ron from the many times that they would come in the store. I always marveled at how gracious she was and what good care she took of Ron. She was in the store in December and I talked to her several times this winter, but she never alluded to being sick at all. She said she had some hospitalization earlier but hoped to be back on her feet. I am so sorry for your loss. We will definitely miss not seeing her Friendly face at the store. May God bless her memory.

Kathy Yohe - April 17, 2025 at 06:36 PM

JP

“ Paul and families, I am so sad to lose a precious loved one. Know that she is in the arms of JESUS. Prayers for peace and comfort as you remember all the great times you have shared. GOD has a place for all of us in HEAVEN. One day as HE promised, we will be with all our loved ones. Deepest Sympathy. Jackie Perius

Jackie perius - April 03, 2025 at 02:25 PM

AP

“ I remember Judy from Merickel's she took care of the rentals for Jimmy and when she quit I took over for a few years.....she will be missed .



Arleen Paulson - March 23, 2025 at 05:07 PM

TF

“ *The Brevik Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Judy Bender.*



The Brevik Family - March 21, 2025 at 05:47 PM

TF

“ *The Brevik Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judy Bender.*

The Brevik Family - March 21, 2025 at 05:47 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Judy Bender.*



March 21, 2025 at 05:41 PM

GB

“ *Gary Besett lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Gary Besett - March 21, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DA

“ *Di Schiller Anderson lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Di Schiller Anderson - March 20, 2025 at 10:43 PM

MJ

“ *Always enjoyed our visits when I did her nails. She will missed.*



Melissa (Ament) Johnson - March 20, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Judy Bender.*



March 19, 2025 at 06:53 PM

HA

“ *Helen Allee sent a virtual gift in memory of Judy Bender*



Helen Allee - March 19, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Judy Bender.*



March 19, 2025 at 09:49 AM



“ *Audrey M. Petersen lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Audrey M. Petersen - March 19, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ *Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Donna Grendahl - March 18, 2025 at 11:19 PM



“ *Mike and Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Mike and Lea Snyder - March 18, 2025 at 08:43 PM

MN

“ Our sympathy to Judy’s family.
Praying that you will be Blessed with Comfort,
Strength, Peace of Mind, and Joyful
Memories of your time with Judy. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Luther & Marilyn Nervig



Marilyn Nervig - March 18, 2025 at 03:01 PM

JD

“ *Janice and Jerry Denny*



Janice Denny - March 18, 2025 at 01:20 PM

MF

“ *Marie Fraune sent a virtual gift in memory of
Judy Bender*



marie fraune - March 18, 2025 at 08:53 AM

JS

“ *Jim & Tracey Stoneman lit a candle in
memory of Judy Bender*



Jim & Tracey Stoneman - March 18, 2025 at 08:02 AM

JE

“ *Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Judy Erdahl - March 17, 2025 at 09:01 PM

JJ

“ *Jon and Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Judy Bender*



Jon and Patty Johnson - March 17, 2025 at 03:52 PM