



## Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny

December 31, 1932 - May 26, 2025

The funeral service celebrating the life of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny, age 92, a resident of Vitality Living of Sebeka and formerly of rural Verndale, will take place at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 2, 2025 at the Hewitt Community Church with Pastor Ken Uhren presiding. Friends and family will be gathering and sharing memories from 9:30 AM until the time of services on Monday at the church. Private burial service will be at the Hewitt Cemetery.

At the age of 92, Bonnie passed away with family by her side on May 26, 2025, at Vitality Living in Sebeka, MN.

As painful as it was to see you go, Thank you for the time to reflect on who you were and the impact you had on our lives.

Some may have known you as Mom, Grams, Bonnie, Phyllis, Sweet Thang, Poopsie, or Bonjo. Phyllis Fern Evans was taken in by the Leaseman family at an early age. Her brother, Bill, said Phyllis was too old of a name for her and decided to give her the name Bonnie, which has held to this day. Bonnie went to school in Hewitt thru the 8th grade.

Bonnie married Gordon Denny and raised five beautiful children: Johnny, Roxanne, Gail, Kathy, and Cindy.

They moved to International Falls for a length of time and then to Alaska,

where Bonnie worked at the Post Office. Then back to Minnesota to what's known today as "The Farm."

Bonnie worked very hard on the farm, milking cows and making meals for the hired hands. As many should know, these weren't your ordinary breakfasts, lunches (dinner), or suppers.... they could be more appropriately labeled as feasts. From a lady who stated, "she couldn't even boil water," she polished her craft of baking, cooking, and hosting over the decades. Everyone that stepped foot onto the Farm's property left with a few extra pounds around their waistline. From the simple soggy butter-drenched popcorn to the fried chicken that rivaled Louisiana, to the buffet settings during family gatherings. Nobody went home hungry nor without platefuls of leftovers, including full homemade pies, half a pig, 5# of spuds, or a dozen ears of corn. At the very least, she always had a stick of Dentyne or Doublemint gum for anyone.

Bonnie was a talented seamstress, creating dresses for the girls thru school, a member of the Hewitt Methodist Church, and even played the piano by ear while singing hymns with the girls as her choir. She loved to dance and even did a waltz with her walker a couple of times.

Bonnie enjoyed WeFest with friends, casino road trips, and cherished the family gatherings, picnics, and bonfires, which would always lead to a tear as you left the yard.

Gordy loved to initiate Bonnie's rising blood pressure and of course he would have some followers which would ultimately have Bonnie scrambling for their names up-to 7 times before she'd get it right. For all other things she couldn't quite remember, the infamous term "Whatchamajigger" was developed. She was tough enough to look a bull in the eyes but if a moth entered her arena...she would be off to the races. I think Gordy's spirit wanted to see how much dust that walker would leave during the last few years.

Upon retirement from milking cows, Pony Rings became a favored hobby shared by both Gordon and Bonnie. Both enjoyed being the social butterflies and spreading their smiles.

Bonnie lived on the farm until the age of 85, moved to Humphrey Manor in Wadena, then to Vitality Living in Sebeka for the past 4 years. The girls were thankful to reverse the caretaker role and blessed to spend the time with her.

To the women of many aliases, thank you for being you. A wife, mother, grandma, great grandma, in-law, neighbor, and friend. For as long as you waited for Gordon outside of Bertha, Hewitt, or Wadena, it's time for you to end his wait for you. Heaven truly gained The Best Cook Ever...We will miss you, we love you and will love you forever.

Preceding Bonnie in death were her loving husband, Gordon (2012); son, Johnny Denny; son-in-law, Bruce Zutter; granddaughter, Natasha Zutter; and mother, Lydia Massey.

Left with loving memories are Bonnie's daughters, RoxAnne (Gene) Arndt of Hewitt, Gail (Mike) Kenney of Wadena, Kathy Stansbury (Bryant Cooper) of Grand Rapids and Cindy (Rob) Havnes of Wadena; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; along with extended family members and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Hewitt Cemetery

Hewitt, MN 56543

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 2. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hewitt Community Church  
801 E 3rd Ave  
Hewitt, MN 56453

## Service

JUN 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hewitt Community Church  
801 E 3rd Ave  
Hewitt, MN 56453

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Gail and families sorry to hear of your mom's passing. My prayers are with you and my deepest sympathy.  
Julie Denny

Julie Denny - June 08, 2025 at 05:28 PM

SA

“ Scott and Gala Allen lit a candle in memory of  
Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Scott and Gala Allen - June 01, 2025 at 08:21 AM

PK

“ Philip Reim & Dan Kent purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny.



Philip Reim & Dan Kent - May 31, 2025 at 03:52 PM

PL

“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Phyllis  
"Bonnie" Denny



Pat Lorentz - May 31, 2025 at 12:44 PM

BB

“ *What a beautiful tribute to your mother. May she rest in peace.*



**Bruce and Joyce Boyne** - May 30, 2025 at 02:13 PM

RW

“ *Roger L Wiese lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



**Roger L Wiese** - May 29, 2025 at 11:32 PM

DM

“ *Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



**Dixie Murray** - May 29, 2025 at 08:26 PM

JJ

“ *Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



**Jon Johnson** - May 29, 2025 at 05:02 PM

BB

“ *Lifting the families in prayer!!*



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**Barb (Mrs. Bruce) Brown** - May 29, 2025 at 05:01 PM

AK

“ *Al and Holly Knutson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



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**Al and Holly Knutson** - May 28, 2025 at 11:10 PM

BD

“ *Brad & Kandee Denny lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



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**Brad & Kandee Denny** - May 28, 2025 at 09:41 PM

DC

“ *Dawn Captain lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



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**Dawn Captain** - May 28, 2025 at 07:15 PM

JA

“ *John & Mary Allen lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



John & Mary Allen - May 28, 2025 at 06:17 PM

SM

“ *Sarah Mathias lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



Sarah Mathias - May 28, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DH

“ *Prayers for all*



Darrell & Peggy Haman - May 28, 2025 at 05:23 PM

TO

“ *Trapper and Tina Olson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny*



Trapper and Tina Olson - May 28, 2025 at 04:25 PM

JJ

“ Jack & Sharon Johnson lit a candle in  
memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Jack & Sharon Johnson - May 28, 2025 at 03:07 PM

JD

“ Love Jerry & Janice Denny



Jerry/Janice Denny - May 28, 2025 at 01:00 PM

KT

“ Karen Treangen lit a candle in memory of  
Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Karen Treangen - May 28, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MN

“ Missi Dunn & Troy Nelson lit a candle in  
memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Missi Dunn & Troy Nelson - May 28, 2025 at 10:26 AM

KC

“ Kim Carlson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis  
"Bonnie" Denny



Kim Carlson - May 28, 2025 at 09:21 AM

SA

“ Scott and Gala Allen lit a candle in memory of  
Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Scott and Gala Allen - May 28, 2025 at 04:49 AM

SP

“ Sue Pauly lit a candle in memory of Phyllis  
"Bonnie" Denny



Sue Pauly - May 27, 2025 at 11:26 PM

BD

“ Brian and Judy Denny lit a candle in memory  
of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Brian and Judy Denny - May 27, 2025 at 09:00 PM

BD

“ Brian and Judy Denny purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny.



Brian and Judy Denny - May 27, 2025 at 08:37 PM

GK

“ Gene & Sandy Kapphahn lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Gene & Sandy Kapphahn - May 27, 2025 at 08:27 PM

NR

“ Bonnie was such a wonderful neighbor and friend. She was so sweet and kind. We will miss your sweet smile and knife words!



Nancy & Harry Rach - May 27, 2025 at 07:54 PM

GD

“ Gene & Mary Denny lit a candle in memory of Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



Gene & Mary Denny - May 27, 2025 at 07:40 PM

SK

“ Steve & Janet Kneisl lit a candle in memory of  
Phyllis "Bonnie" Denny



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Steve & Janet Kneisl - May 27, 2025 at 06:09 PM