



## Bertha Milton

June 11, 1911 - August 30, 2015

Bertha Marie Milton was born on June 11, 1911 in Mansfield Twp., Barnes County, North Dakota to William and Veronica (Stroh) Strang. Bertha was the oldest of 10 children and when she was 16 years old her family moved to a farm in Bradbury Township, Mille Lacs Co., Minnesota. She attended Onamia High School and was in the class of 1928. In 1931 she was married to Bruce E. Milton in the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Onamia. Bruce was the Chief of Police of Onamia and a Special Deputy Sheriff of Mille Lacs County from 1935 to 1942. He then traveled to Alaska to work on the World War II Alcan Highway Project with Bertha's father William Strang and in 1944 was drafted into the Army Air Corps. In 1946 Bruce was elected Sheriff of Mille Lacs County and served in this capacity for 16 years. During this period of time, Bertha was a home maker raising their four children. When Bruce became Sheriff, Bertha often had to act as a dispatcher and a police matron to assist her husband with emergency response calls. This was at a time when the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department consisted of the Sheriff and one deputy. In her early married years she had been a waitress at some of the early Onamia restaurants, including the Gem Café and Dan Augars. In 1960, Bertha opened the first Assisted Living Facility for the elderly in Onamia, known as the Milton Rest Home. She owned and managed the Rest Home until 1985 when she retired. Bertha will be remembered for her strong work ethic which she instilled in her children from her example. She will also be remembered for her stylish dress and accessories and her beautifully kept

white hair. She moved into the Lake Song Assisted Living Facility in 2008 and was recently a resident of the Mille Lacs Health System in Onamia. She was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, St. Ann's Society of Holy Cross Church, and the Crosier Apostolate. She is survived by one daughter, Midge Trutnau of Champlin, two sons, Bruce (Mary) of Bloomington and Onamia, and Bill (Vicki) of Round Rock, Texas, and daughter-in-law Suzanne of Onamia; 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, one brother Clifford Strang (Natalie) of Onamia and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Bruce, son Larry, and son-in-law Tom Trutnau.

# Cemetery Details

## **Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery**

Onamia, MN 56359

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bertha Milton*

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January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Our sympathy to the Milton family ... thoughts & prayers are with you...*

*Cory & Carol Zupfer*

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**Carol Zupfer** - September 02, 2015 at 09:55 PM



“ *Our Lord will bless the memory of Bertha Milton - almost as if yesterday, I remember going many evenings to the Courthouse with my Dad, Henry C. Wessman, Register of Deeds for Mille Lacs County - I rode my wagon around the atrium while Dad worked. When the Sherriff was there, it was a special night! Bruce Milton remains my gold standard of what an officer of the law should be, and I know much of his strength and discernment came from his beautiful wife and companion. Our sympathies and respect to the Milton family.*

*H.C. "Bud" & Lorraine Wessman  
Fargo, ND*

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**Bud Wessman** - September 02, 2015 at 05:25 PM

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“ *Jim & Shirley Callan. Bill & Marion Thelen. Mike & Mandy purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Bertha Milton.*



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**Jim & Shirley Callan. Bill & Marion Thelen. Mike & Mandy -**  
September 01, 2015 at 03:32 PM