



Dolores "Dee" Knopik

November 6, 1929 - October 31, 2023

Dolores "Dee" Knopik, 93 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at the St. Cloud Hospital. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Belle Prairie, MN with Father Ben Kociemba officiating. Burial will take place in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-7 P.M. on Tuesday and from 10-11 A.M. on Wednesday at Holy Family Catholic Church in Belle Prairie, MN. Caring for Dee and her family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Dee (Dolores Schantz) Knopik was born November 6, 1929 in Glen Ullin, ND to the late Christ and Anna (Geiss) Schantz. She attended school in Glen Ullin, graduating High School in 1947. Dee then attended St. Alexis Nursing School in Bismarck, ND for 3 years to become a Registered Nurse. Upon her graduation, she was asked by the nuns to continue her education at Creighton University in Omaha, NE to get a teaching degree so that she could go back to St. Alexis and teach the nursing students. While at Creighton University she carried a full load of credits and also worked full-time nights at the Methodist Hospital as a Registered Nurse from December through June. She then returned to St. Alexis Nursing School as promised, being the first lay instructor ever to teach the nursing students, for 2 years. The year Dee graduated from St. Alexis Nursing School, only 10 of the 26 nursing students that had started

the program, stayed in the program to graduate. When Dee started teaching the nursing students, it was the first class in the school's history where everyone who started the nursing program stayed and graduated. All the students also went on to pass the RN exam on the first try. Dee then took a leave of absence to come to Little Falls, MN with a good friend where she ended up staying. She got a job at St. Gabriel's Hospital and worked on the surgical floor. Two weeks later she was promoted to the Head Nurse position on the surgical floor. She also worked in the emergency room for 6 years. She went on to work as a supervisor and eventually was the Director of Nursing. She was also the first nurse to work in Utilization Review. Her final job was working at the Family Medical Center where she retired at the age of 76. She was united in marriage to Clarence Knopik on September 20, 1954 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Little Falls. Following their marriage, Dee and Clarence lived in Sobieski. She also did the bookkeeping for the Sobieski Creamery for 12 years. In 1970, the couple and their family moved to Little Falls. In her later years, Dee volunteered at St. Gabriel's Hospital, St. Otto's Care Center, and the Food Shelf. She also was a lector and a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Family Church in Belle Prairie for several years. She enjoyed walking, feeding the ducks, playing cards, baking bread and reading.

Dee is survived by her sons, Dick (Jeanne) Knopik of Little Falls, Charles (Char) Knopik of Brainerd, and daughter, Mary (Scott) Mason of Maple Grove, MN; grandchildren, Eric (Emily) Knopik, Kevin (Rachel) Knopik, Sara (Mike) Nielsen, and Kate (David) Binder; great-grandchildren, Ada, Annie, Joshua, Andrew, and Abigail Knopik, Evelyn and George Binder, Lauren and Megan Nielsen; sister, Kathy Kopp of Bismarck, ND and half-sister, Margie (Gary) Jaeger as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence, her parents, her stepmother, Anna Schantz, infant son, Joseph, her sister, Lou and brother-in-law, Jerry Haehn, and brother-in-law, John Kopp.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church - Belle Prairie
18777 Riverwood Drive
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church - Belle Prairie
18777 Riverwood Drive
Little Falls, MN

Funeral Mass

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church - Belle Prairie
18777 Riverwood Drive
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 06, 2023 at 10:47 AM



“ *Dee was such a kind person. I knew her in the community, and she was always smiling and lovely person. My deepest condolences to her family and friends.*

Lisa LeBlanc - November 07, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dolores "Dee" Knopik.*



November 06, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Laurie Venske Koll lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Laurie Venske Koll - November 06, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 06, 2023 at 10:47 AM



“ 72 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - November 06, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Dolores "Dee" Knopik.



November 06, 2023 at 08:48 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dolores "Dee" Knopik.*



November 05, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *To the Dee Knopik family: Our deepest sympathy & condolences, thoughts and prayers are with you all. Dee will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Her positive vibes, kindness, compassion, an Love for all she knew, along with her lovely smile. Dee was a very special & great lady. May she rest in eternal peace with our Heavenly Father in heaven. God's blessings her family in this difficult time. May she rest in peace.*

Richard & Mary Schneider - November 04, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dolores "Dee" Knopik.*



November 04, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy.*



MaryAnn Virnig - November 03, 2023 at 05:54 PM

LP

“ Linda Paycer sent a virtual gift in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



Linda Paycer - November 03, 2023 at 05:49 PM

JK

“ Judi Kosbau sent a virtual gift in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



Judi Kosbau - November 02, 2023 at 09:51 PM

CM

“ Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



Claudette Moran - November 02, 2023 at 05:37 PM

CM

Mary, Charles, Dick, and family, I remember your parents both so well, especially when I was a second grade and third grade munchkin taking piano lessons from Mary in the 1970's. Your parents were always so gracious and kind to me, whether your mom was sharing cookies that she had just baked with me, or even when I was in the hospital when I had a malignant tumor removed in 1994. Blessed be both of your parents memories. May they rest in the peace of Christ, and may God hold all of you in the palm of his hand.

Claudette Moran - November 02, 2023 at 05:50 PM

KD

“ *She was such a sweet lady and always had a smile on her face. I had the privilege of working with her at FMC, she was a mentor to many new nurses that worked with her. she will be missed.*


Kim DeDomines - November 02, 2023 at 02:38 PM

BJ

“ *Becky Jelinski lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Becky Jelinski - November 02, 2023 at 01:59 PM

 Susan Ogaard

“ *Susan Ogaard lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Susan Ogaard - November 02, 2023 at 12:21 PM

AY

“ *What a wonderful person Dee was, always had a smile on her face and always said "why how have you been" Miss seeing her doing her daily walk to. God Bless You Dee!!!!*

Audrey Yourczek - November 02, 2023 at 12:13 PM



“ Janet Retka lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



Janet Retka - November 02, 2023 at 10:49 AM



“ Pete Christopherson lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



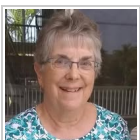
Pete Christopherson - November 02, 2023 at 10:13 AM



“ David & Sara Jane Brutscher lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik



David & Sara Jane Brutscher - November 02, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ Mary and family so sorry for your loss. Your mother was such a kind loving person friendly to all. May she rest in peace. Our sympathy to you all.



Karen Haaland - November 02, 2023 at 07:59 AM

CF

“ *Connie Fenske lit a candle in memory of Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Connie Fenske - November 01, 2023 at 07:12 PM

DL

“ *We are so very sorry for the families loss I worked with Dee for many years in the old hospital*
Dianne and Charlie Ledbetter



Dianne and Charlie Ledbetter - November 01, 2023 at 07:01 PM

VB

“ *We worked together for many years in funeral group B at Holy Family Belle Prairie. She was always such nice person. Sympathy to her family.*

Virgil and Babe Brisk - November 01, 2023 at 06:13 PM

JH

“ *So sorry for the loss of your dear Mother! You are in our thoughts and prayers!*



Jerry & Julie (Otremba) Hollermann - November 01, 2023 at 04:54 PM

LL

“ *Dee will be missed by many! Rest in Peace
Dee* 🙏🙏



Liz Lawrence - November 01, 2023 at 03:02 PM

LL

“ *Linda S LeBlanc lit a candle in memory of
Dolores "Dee" Knopik*



Linda S LeBlanc - November 01, 2023 at 10:48 AM

PM

“ *Patty Mallak lit a candle in memory of Dolores
"Dee" Knopik*



Patty Mallak - November 01, 2023 at 10:13 AM