

Arlene Mae (Bakke) Ness

Funeral services will be held at 10 A.M. Thur. at First Lutheran Church in Middle River with Pastor Craig Bowyer officiating. Visitation will be after 6 P.M. Wed. with a 7 P.M. prayer service



at Collins Funeral Chapel, Middle River, and at the church one hour prior to services Thur. morning, Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery near Middle River.

Arlene Mae Ness, the daughter of the late Adolph and Alice (Gast) Bakke, was born Nov. 27, 1935, near Newfolden, MN. She attended school and grew to womanhood there and was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. On Feb. 9, 1957, she was united in marriage to Donald Ness at Viking, MN. They resided at Thief River Falls for a short time and both worked on a turkey farm there prior to moving to Middle River where she has since resided. She worked at the former Rex Café and at the Boarding Home in Middle River and for many years, did day care in her home. Arlene especially enjoyed her cats, riding her bike around Middle River and visiting, and also driving around the area and having coffee with her many friends. Donald passed away July 13, 2006. She passed away unexpectedly at her home on Fri. morning, Nov. 7, 2014, at the age of 78 years, 11 months and 10 days.

She is survived by two sons: Mike, of Middle River and Randy (Debbie), of Crookston; two daughters: Debbie (Danny) Lorenson, of Wannaska, MN and Diane (Darren) Wagner, of Holt, MN; 11 grandchildren: Kristin, Sarah, Amy, Nicole, Shaun, Katie, Annie, Ashley, Adam, Colby and Shelby; 14 great-grandchildren; brother: Les Bakke, of Moorhead, MN; her cats: “Boots” and “Munchkin”; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Arlene was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a son in infancy, 3 brothers: Robert, Larry and Pete and sister: Avis Mattson.

Les Bakke Remembers Arlene

Of my two sisters, I remember Arlene the best. Perhaps it was because we were close to each other in age or perhaps because she was a truly wonderful person. We grew up on a 160 acre farm about five miles west of Newfolden, Minnesota. Arlene had chores at home as did all of us. I remember telling the mourners at her funeral that Arlene could milk a cow when she was young. Some of the kids that Arlene provided day care for were surprised.

Here is a Bakke family photo from about 1950, taken, of course, by the lilac bush on the family farm. It was a favorite backdrop for pictures. In the back row from left to right are Arlene, Pete, Avis and Bob. The front is Larry Adolph, Alice and Les.



Arlene met and married Donnie Ness from Middle River, Minnesota. Larry and I took an immediate liking to Donnie, probably because he would play ball with us.

They had five children, one of whom died very young, less than a year old. Arlene and Donnie lived and worked on a farm near Holt, MN prior to moving to their permanent home in Middle River. This photo of Arlene and Donnie was taken on the Bakke family farm by the lilac bush. My family always used that bush as a backdrop for pictures.



When I was in first grade at Newfolden, we had a Christmas program. One of the songs we were taught and sang in Norwegian was Jeg Er Saa Glad Hver Julekveld or in English I am so glad each Christmas Eve. Arlene really enjoyed the song and praised me for singing. Apparently I was an OK singer in first grade because later in life I was told by amateurs and experts alike that I should NOT attempt to sing. Or perhaps

Arlene was being a nice sister. She was the one family member who I remember attending my school activities. She even came to the Newfolden vs Middle River basketball games.

After I came home from the Air Force, I remember Arlene and her three children, Mike, Randy and Debbie visiting our family farm. I was playing with Mike and Randy as I normally did and suddenly Debbie jumped on my lap joining the other two. Arlene said “I wondered how long that would take.” The three and their younger sister, Diane have all become wonderful adults.

After I retired, I was able to spend a little more time with my family. When my Sweetie, Bev



Lake met Arlene, they bonded immediately, almost as sisters. When Bev and I went ‘up north’, we’d try to see as many relatives as possible. Here is one of the last times we were together, having pizza at our nephew Ken’s Pizza place in Thief River Falls, MN. Bev and I were both really sad when Mike called to tell us that Arlene had passed away while sitting in her favorite chair at home with her cats. That was another bond between Arlene and Bev, their love for cats.

Arlene is missed.