



Shirley Marie Whitbeck

May 3, 1927 - June 16, 2018

Shirley Marie (Pickar) Whitbeck earned her eternal wings on the morning of June 16, 2018. Her daughter and caregiver, Lea Ann Laverdure, was by her side as she joined those that preceded her.

Shirley was born at home to Barney and Gusty Pickar on May 3, 1927 in Cingmars Township (Koochiching County). She was one of ten children. In her youth she helped on the family farm; cared for younger siblings, nieces and nephews; and cooked at the logging camp where her brother and father logged. As a young woman she moved to St. Paul and worked at Western Electric where she was chosen as the company's "Hello Charley" girl that came with a professional photography session and several evening dresses. She later traveled to Denver taking a job as a waitress but returned home to care for a sister with polio. While working at the Chicago Café in International Falls Shirley met and married Walter Whitbeck. Their 56 year love affair ended with Walt's death in 2011. She helped support her growing family working as a waitress at the Rex, Island View and Rainy Lake Lodges and the Holiday Inn until she retired in 1985. Together they raised Robyn (Bill Sykes), Lea Ann Laverdure and Walt Whitbeck (Annie Holenko) and were grandparents to Drew Laverdure (Jayme) and Ryan Anderson-Whitbeck (Caitlin Morff) and great grandparents to Dahlia Morff and Melody Ruelle.

Shirley took great joy in the small, but important and beautiful things of life. She loved being surrounded by family on holidays, birthdays and special events. Her flowers and gardens were a daily source of pleasure. Visiting humming birds, mourning doves and cardinals always made her smile. She enjoyed visitors to the small cabin she and Walt had on Jackfish Bay. In her final months the visits, phone calls, cards and flowers from friends and family helped ease the limitations that age placed on her body. She will be missed by her constant canine companion, Nova.

To the end, Shirley had a strength of spirit that helped and supported those around her as her health failed. Her passing leaves a whole in the fabric of the lives she leaves behind, but completes the eternal tapestry she began to weave over ninety-one years ago.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sisters Marguerette and Bernadine Pickar and Evelyn Dawes; and brothers Donald, Bud, Jack and Leonard Pickar. She leaves behind siblings Beverly Holcomb and Dennis Pickar and many nieces and nephews from the Pickar and Whitbeck families.

Memorial services will be conducted on June 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Green Larsen Mortuary. Visitation will be held one hour prior to service time.

Friends and Family are invited to gather after the service at 320 19th Street E, (So) International Falls to share memories of Shirley.

If so desired, in memoriam donations can be made to Paws and Claws Koochiching County Emergency Rescue, 116 Hiway Lane, Intl. Falls, MN 56649.

Comments



“ Rhonda Wimmer lit a candle in memory of Shirley Marie Whitbeck



Rhonda Wimmer - June 26, 2018 at 08:19 AM



“ I would like to express our deepest sympathies for your loss. We did not know Shirley but my family was able to meet some of the family when I was young and have some fond memories. I enjoyed the pictures that were listed. May your memories wrap you in peace. Christine Pickar Beck

Christine Pickar Beck - June 25, 2018 at 08:31 AM



“ Walt. My mom and I want to say we are sorry for the loss of your mother.

Tammy Gradine, Charlene Peck - June 24, 2018 at 07:03 PM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Green-Larsen Mortuary, Inc. - June 24, 2018 at 12:38 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Marie Whitbeck.



June 23, 2018 at 09:33 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Marie Whitbeck.



June 21, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ Love, DeMaris Olson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Shirley Marie Whitbeck.



Love, DeMaris Olson - June 19, 2018 at 07:15 PM



“ Dear Robin, Lea Ann, Walt and your families: I am so deeply sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was always, always so good and nice to me & my sister Clarice when we lived right across the road from you on 2nd Ave East when we were all so very young. She was genuinely a great, caring, loving and nurturing influence to us children in the neighborhood and treated us all equally. Both of your parents were incredibly awesome and I will never, ever forget them for their loving and giving selves. May God bless each of you and give you extra strength at this most difficult time. Know you are all in my thoughts and prayers.-Love, DeMaris



DeMaris Olson - June 19, 2018 at 06:02 PM



“ So sorry to hear about your Mom. She was a good lady. My prayers are with all of you.

Debbie



Debbie Graves - June 19, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ I am very sorry for your loss

LuAnne Caul - June 18, 2018 at 10:12 PM



“ Condolences

Mary Sirois - June 18, 2018 at 03:10 PM



“ Kathy Sikkila lit a candle in memory of Shirley Marie Whitbeck



Kathy Sikkila - June 18, 2018 at 09:58 AM



“ Robyn, Leann and Walt

Sending Deepest Sympathy to you and your family. Your Mom was a wonderful lady. I remember when she married my older sister. I remember her and Mom drinking coffee and smoking their cigarettes. Love and hugs to you all.

Kathy Sikkila - June 18, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ To Shirley's Family, So sorry for your loss, Shirley was a good person and a hard worker. We had many fun times working at the Holiday Inn!

Maxine Corrin - June 17, 2018 at 12:51 PM