



Doris Lemke

September 9, 1935 - November 8, 2024

Doris Mae Lemke, 89, born in Graceville, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on 11/8/24, leaving behind a legacy of love, resilience, and dedication to family. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Don. She joins him to celebrate their 70th anniversary in heaven on 11/13. Also preceded by her parents, Ralph and Josephine (Michael) Wolfe; brothers Bob and Jim; granddaughter Tiffany; and niece Vicki.

She is survived by her children Don (Jackie), Rosanne (Dale), Linda (Nick), Cindy (Tom), Jim (Lisa), and Larry; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Jeanne; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

Throughout her life, Doris moved many times, both as a child and an adult. She expertly managed the household while Don traveled for work, transforming each new house into a warm and inviting home with her exceptional knack for decorating. A devoted mother and grandmother, she cared for neighborhood friends' children when her children were young and welcomed all with open arms as the family grew.

Her motto, "Always leave a place cleaner than you found it," reflected her compassionate, organized, honest, and principled nature. Doris was a passionate

volunteer, dedicating her time to various causes including the Transplant Assistance Fund, the Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Awareness Program, and the United Way.

In her professional life, she served as a customer care representative for the telephone company, and also became a coordinator for the Child Care/Elder Care program. She was a strong advocate for the Pathways/Retraining program and was active in the Minneapolis Communication Workers of America Union, serving as Chief Steward and Chair of the Contract Resolutions Committee. She also shared her knowledge as a speaker through the telephone company's Speaker Bureau, addressing community groups and schools.

A lifelong learner, Doris returned to school in her 50s, funded by the phone company's retraining program. She graduated with a 2 year degree from Metropolitan State University, then also graduated with a BA in Communications from the University of Minnesota. Her essays, particularly "The Hats I Wear" and "The Circus is Coming to Town," showcased her talent and insight.

Doris found joy in her retirement at the cabin with Don, the love of her life. Don's idea of a simple spot to clean fish was transformed under her direction into a beautiful gazebo aptly named the Fish Cleaning / Gardening Shed, which also served as a hangout for the kids and grandkids on summer nights. She enjoyed her flower gardens, and cherished memories of family gatherings. She loved traditions like the 4th of July celebrations, Easter egg hunts, and holiday dinners, always believing that the more, the merrier.

With her hobbies ranging from sewing & gardening, collecting Hummels & teddy bears, and attending grandkids sports and music events, Doris embraced life with enthusiasm and a generous spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Champlin United Methodist Church (CUMC) or the Alzheimer's Association.

Celebration of Life Service 11AM Saturday November 16, 2024 at Champlin United Methodist Church, 921 Downs Road, Champlin, MN 55316, with visitation 1 hour prior to the service. Lunch to follow the service.
Interment at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis at 2PM.

Visitation



Saturday, November 16th 10AM



Champlin United Methodist Church, 921 Downs Road, Champlin, MN

[Driving Directions](#)

Celebration of Life Service



Saturday, November 16th 11AM



Champlin United Methodist Church, 921 Downs Road, Champlin, MN

[Driving Directions](#)

Burial



Saturday, November 16th 2PM



Lakewood Cemetery
3600 Hennepin Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55408