

Renée Joanne Howard was born November 29, 1934, in Fargo, ND, the daughter of Joseph Malfried (Johnson) Howard. At a young age her family moved to Fergus Falls, and later to Minneapolis where she attended school. Following school, Renée began working as a nursing assistant at the U of M hospital. She also worked at the Sister Kenny Institute helping to care for Polio victims.

On September 13, 1958, Renée was united in marriage to Earl Vanderheiden. The couple made their home in Richfield, MN and were blessed with four children. Thirty years later, they split their time between Minnesota, Wisconsin and Casa Grande, AZ for the winters. Recently they moved to Alexandra, MN to be close with family.

Renée loved children; she worked as a foster parent taking care of 30-40 kids and ran an at home licensed daycare. Renée volunteered her time to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Bluebirds. Later in life, Earl and Renée sponsored three kids from Guatemala. Throughout it all one of her greatest joys were loving up on her grandkids and great grandkids.

Renée and Earl had a strong love and passion for their church. They volunteered often creating Rosaries, participating in activities and filling in wherever they were asked. They were also members of the Third Order of Saint Francis, which they took great pride in.

Renée was known for her love of art, music, sports, and food. She was remembered for her bright, happy personality and absolutely contagious laugh. She brought joy to anyone that knew her.

The greatest accomplishment for Renée, was the love she shared with her husband, Earl. Married for over sixty years, they were inseparable. Their dedication to one another was their greatest blessing and that of which dreams are made of.

On Sunday, March 3, 2019, Renée died at the age of eight-four. She was preceded in death by her parents; infant son, Andrew; daughter-in-law, Joy Vanderheiden; grandson, LCpl, Nicholas Anderson; and three sisters, Audrey King, Muriel Ketter and Virginia Howard. Renée is survived by her husband, Earl Vanderheiden; daughters, Cindy Anderson (Jim) and Theresa Johnson (Russell); son, Joe Vanderheiden; grandkids, Jessie Anderson (Nick), Andy Brkovich (Angie), Tina Peck (Adam), Kierstin Huelsemann (Ryan), Emily Johnson, Elin Holmes (Jeff), Sean Hanson (Benyapa), Kia Hesslink (Jake), Theo Vanderheiden, and Mara Vanderheiden (Chris); twenty great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In Loving Memory



Renée Vanderheiden

1934 ~ 2019

*For Those I Love,
For Those Who Love Me...*

*When I am gone, release me, let me go...
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
But let my spirit calm your fears,
I gave you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone!*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories that lie within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you must come this way alone...
I'll greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome Home."*



In Loving Memory

**Renée Joanne
Vanderheiden**

November 29, 1934



March 3, 2019

Memorial Mass

Church of St. Mary
Alexandria, Minnesota
Friday, March 8, 2019
11 AM

Celebrant

Reverend Father Steve Binsfeld

Honorary Pallbearers

All of Renée's Grandchildren

Jessie Anderson	Andy Brkovich
Tina Peck	Kierstin Huelsemann
Emily Johnson	Elin Holmes
Sean Hanson	Kia Hesslink
Theo Vanderheiden	Mara Vanderheiden

Interment

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
Minneapolis, Minnesota

