

Shirley Marie Radke Altermatt was born December 19, 1932 to Robert and Meta Radke in New Ulm, Minnesota. She met her true love, Jerry Altermatt, on a Moonlight Skate at age 15, and married him at age 16. They had three children, Rhonda (Ronni), Terry, and Jill (Bean). They made their home in New Ulm until the fall of 1968 when they bought a small lake resort on Lake Ida – a dream that had been born while on the many camping trips they'd taken kids, cats and dogs in tow. They enjoyed life on the lake and eventually built a home there after selling the resort properties in the late 1970's. Shirley then began working at the Douglas County Hospital, first in dietary – and later in Central Supply, where Shirley became known for not only her work ethic, but also for her sense of humor and fun. She enjoyed her “CSR buddies” and loved going to work, but retired early to care for Jerry, who'd had several surgeries for cancer.

She is remembered as a fun-loving, feisty, somewhat mischievous friend, mother, and grandmother, who made sure that she and Jerry made trips to Verndale, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Utah, Nevada – and South Padre Island – wherever those children and grandkids might have landed at any given time.

Shirley's health declined after the loss of Jerry in 2011 and she eventually made her home at Grand Arbor where she died on April 13, 2019 at the age of 86. She is survived by her three children, her daughter-in-law, Pearl Altermatt, grandsons, Jason (Kathy) Orłowski, Justin (Ann) Orłowski, Zachary Orłowski, and Aaron (Katherine) Orłowski, and Tony (Steph) Altermatt, and granddaughter, Tami Rae (Zach) Stroud, 6 great grandsons and 5 great granddaughters.

In Loving Memory of
Shirley M. Altermatt

December 19, 1932 † April 13, 2019

When a person reaches advanced old age
After having lived a full life,
Dying becomes almost as natural
As the picking of a ripe apple,
Or the falling of a brightly colored leaf in
autumn. The harvest has been gathered in,
The journey ended,
The story told,
Life's tasks finished and neatly bound
together like a sheaf of wheat.
There is a roundedness about the person's
life, a sense of completion and fulfilment;
And while there is sadness at her leaving
us, there is joy too, so much so that the
funeral becomes a celebration.
Such a death is like the coming of sleep
After a long and rewarding day's work.

Memorial Service

Grand Arbor
Alexandria, Minnesota
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
3:00 PM

Presider

Beth Telander

Pianist

Kim Byrne

Musical Selections

In The Garden
The Lion Sleeps Tonight

Burial

New Ulm City Cemetery
New Ulm, Minnesota

Arrangements

Anderson Funeral Home
Alexandria, Minnesota