

# Donna Dee Rambow

Donna Dee Rambow, a woman of wit, grit, spunk, joy, resiliency, faith, and grace, was born in Raymond, MN, to William J. and Leone Wegner on August 18, 1929. She died at Bethesda Grand in Willmar on January 28, 2022, the anniversary of her husband Gerald's death on January 28, 2011.

Donna Dee grew up in Raymond and married Gerald Rambow at the age of 16. They welcomed their first daughter the same year her mother passed, but ever resilient, she returned to school and graduated with her class in 1947, while caring for her father, sister, new husband, and her baby. During her life in Raymond, she and Gerald celebrated the births of 4 more children, and ran Wegner's Market (later Rambow's Market). They closed the meat market in 1972 and became caretakers of Kandiyohi County Park #3 on Diamond Lake for 20 years, delighting in the changing seasons, campers, and scooping many ice cream cones in the store. Following their retirement, she and Gerald bought their very first house and moved to Willmar. She worked for a time at Herberger's and volunteered at Rice Hospital. Following Gerald's change in health, they sold their house and moved to West View Village. She spent her final years at Bethesda, where she received excellent care.

Donna Dee had many hobbies, scrap booking, knitting and counted cross stitch, reading, camping, traveling (including supporting her family in the RAGBRAI), and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Above her many interests, she always prioritized her family and was ever-present at her children's, grandchildren's, and great-grandchildren's activities. A woman of great faith, she was an active member of her church congregations, St. John's, Bethlehem, and Bethel, singing in the choir and leading Bible studies. She made friends wherever she went

with her easy humor and generous spirit. Through all of life's hardships and joys, Donna Dee always saw life as an adventure and loved a good party. She celebrated her 60th birthday with a family luau to share her experience from her trip to Hawaii, and her 85th birthday by taking a hot air balloon ride. Her 92nd birthday brought one last fun family party. As her health declined, she was surrounded with company, songs, and good conversation from her family and friends, a testament to the bonds she created and the way she loved her people. She passed peacefully in her sleep.

She is survived by her daughters Suzanne (Clayton) Rye and Melissa (Steve) Bergeson, and by her sons Lyn (Marge) Rambow and Lyle (Londa) Rambow. Surviving grandchildren include Ben (Sarah) Hoese, Tim (Lynn) Hoese, Becky Wagenbach, Denelle (Kelly) Czech, Nicole Flesner (Jeremy Jongbloedt), Tiffany Flesner (Adam Norris), Courtney (Drew) Millard, Chelsey (Mike) Headrick, Chase (Kate) Rambow, Bridget Bergeson (Wesley Burdulis), Megan Bergeson (Matthew Suedbeck), and Nicholas Bergeson. Great-grandchildren include Andrew (Megan) Hoese, Graham (Casandra) Hoese, Emma (Tristan) Kiffmeyer, Theo Gilbertson, Kaden and Kami Czech, Sophie and Emmy Honeycutt, Kyla and Isaac, Wiser, Corey and Elsie Wagenbach, Lucia, Lyla, and Ledger Millard, Dane and Heath Headrick, Ridge and Callum Rambow, and one great-great-grandson, Jackson Hoese. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law Marian Larson, Signe Rambow, Carol Jean Rambow, and Judy (Rolie) Boll, beloved niece Frankie Scalzo and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gerald Rambow, daughter Ronna Flesner, son-in-law Dennis Flesner, sister Billie Lynn Nichols, and many dear brothers-and-sisters-in-law.



*Celebrating the life of*



# Donna Dee Rambow

1929 - 2022

In Loving Memory Of

*Donna Dee Rambow*

August 18, 1929  
Raymond, Minnesota

January 28, 2022  
Willmar, Minnesota

**Celebration of Life Service**

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

Willmar, Minnesota

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God; believe also in me.

My Father's house has many rooms;

if that were not so, would I have told you

that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back and take you to be with me

that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where

you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

-John 14:1-6

**Casketbearers**

Ben Hoese Tim Hoese Nicholas Bergeson

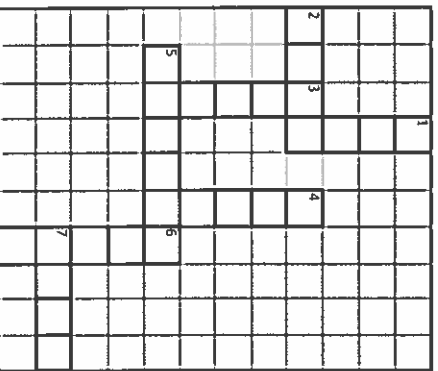
Chase Rambow Kelly Czech Drew Millard Mike Headrick

**Interment**

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery

Raymond, Minnesota

*Donna Dee's Puzzle*



**Across**

2. I am the way, the truth and the

5. I can do all things through \_\_\_\_\_ who gives me strength.

7. But I will \_\_\_\_\_ of your strength, in the morning I will \_\_\_\_\_ of your love.

**Down**

1. And now these three remain, faith, \_\_\_\_\_ and love.

3. For we live by \_\_\_\_\_ not sight.

4. May the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and keep you.

6. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

Prelude

Processional Hymn

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

Lois Dahl

No. 781

Gathering

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Page 279

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Family Tributes

Special Music "The Family of God"

Darlene Bratberg & Lori Anderson

Scripture Psalm 23

TJ Flesner & Nicole Flesner

Isaiah 41:10

Denelle Czech

Matthew 11:28-30

Message

Pastor Jon Dahl

Hymn

"On Eagle's Wings"

No. 787

Apostles' Creed, Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

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Special Music "It Is Well With My Soul"

Caroline Becker, Cello

Commendation & Blessing

Hymn

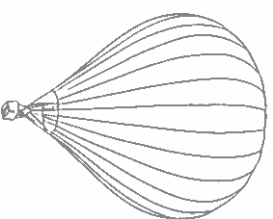
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

No. 742

Recessional "This is the Day" (Sing 2x)

*This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.*

Postlude





At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.

But later when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike and Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable...it was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts up mountains and through rocky places, and at breakneck speeds, it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared", He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met and I found that in giving, I received and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets – how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks and fly to shorten scary passages.

And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breezes on my face with my delightful constant companion, Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says, "PEDAL!"



## *A Book*

*"Now",* said a good book unto me  
"Open my pages and you shall see  
Jewels of wisdom and treasures fine,  
Gold and silver in every line,  
And you may claim them if you but will,  
Open my pages and take your fill.

*"I* am just a book on your mantle shelf,  
But I can be a part of your living self;  
If only you'll travel my pages thru  
Then I will travel the world with you.  
Open my pages and run them o'er.  
Take what you choose from my golden store.

*"I'll* make you fitter to talk with men,  
I'll touch with silver the lines you pen.  
I'll lead you nearer the truth you seek,  
I'll strengthen you when your faith growls weak.  
Come take me, know me, love me well,  
Let me come into your mind to dwell!"

*Edger A. Guest*

