



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Mary Ann Ulrich

WHO WAS BORN
January 18, 1931
Ortonville, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
February 25, 2024
Ortonville, Minnesota

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Saturday, March 2, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.
Congregational United Church of Christ
Ortonville, Minnesota

OFFICIANT
Lynn Thomas

EULOGY
Van Donkersgoed, Grandson

MUSICIANS
Amy Adelman, Organist
Jim Foster, Vocalist

URN BEARERS
Mary Ann's Beloved Grandsons
Van Donkersgoed | Ben Donkersgoed | Chuck Donkersgoed

HONORARY BEARERS
Gertje Van Lith American Legion
VFW Auxiliary

APPRECIATION
Mary Ann's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated.
Special thanks for the loving care provided by Dr. Robert Ross and staff
at Peaceful Pines Senior Living, Fairway View Neighborhoods, and
CentraCare Hospice.

ARRANGEMENTS BY
Mundwiler & Larson Funeral Home - Ortonville, Minnesota

When all is said & done
As each life's journey
ends
wends,
Life wouldn't be worth
living
If we didn't have our
friends

Mary Ann Ulrich was born on January 18, 1931, in Ortonville, MN. She was the daughter of Magnus and Anna Sorensen. She graduated from Ortonville High School with the Class of 1949. She continued her education at Nettleton Business School in Sioux Falls, SD. She returned to Ortonville and began her career at Geier Jackson Inc. as their bookkeeper.

Mary Ann met Rodger Ulrich at Sioux Historic Pavilion in 1954. They were united in marriage on August 7, 1956, at First Congregational Church in Ortonville. They moved to Hayti, SD, where their two daughters, Ann and Sue, were born.

Rodger's job took the family to Aberdeen, SD in 1964. While raising her family, Mary Ann was also the activity director at Mother Joseph Manor Nursing Home. Advocacy and service to elders came naturally to her. Rodger and Mary Ann moved back to Ortonville in 1979. They loved spending time at their lake cabin at Lagoona Beach which they purchased in 1959.

Mary Ann always was an active and passionate community citizen. Mary Ann got things done. She devoted many hours to Citizens for Big Stone Lake, Ortonville Area Health Services Board of Directors, Big Stone Healthcare Foundation, Big Stone Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Office of Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans, Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, Kiwanis Club, VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post #3964, American Legion Gertj Van Lith Post #229, Extension Club, Big Stone Arts Council, Central Park Restoration Committee, Friday Lunch Bunch, and Congo Bongos.

Mary Ann helped to bring to Ortonville the Multiple Sclerosis TRAM (The Ride Across Minnesota) and Masters Walleye Tournament. She was a founding member of Citizens for Big Stone Lake Association. Mary Ann's work is memorialized on two granite plaques at the foot of Big Stone Lake. In 2016, Mary Ann was honored as Grand Marshal of the 78th Annual Corn Fest Parade.

Mary Ann's Danish heritage was celebrated with family here – and in Denmark. Over the years, many Danish Kringle pastries were shared with coffee and loved ones. Danish family held a special place in her heart – and they called her “The Queen.”

Left to cherish her memory are her daughters: Ann (Pete) Holme of Ortonville, MN; and Sue (Robert) Donkersgoed of Eden Prairie, MN; three grandchildren: Van (Carissa), Charles, and Benjamin (Amy) Donkersgoed; nieces, nephews, her Danish cousins, and Cabin family. She was preceded in death by her parents: Magnus and Anna; husband, Rodger; siblings: Kenneth, Clifford, Doris, Willard, and Maureen.

Life is what you Celebrate.

All of It.

Even its *End*.

