



God saw she was getting tired and a cure was not to be.
So He put his arm around her and whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes we watched her suffer and saw her fade away.

Although we loved her dearly, we could not make her stay
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands to rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.



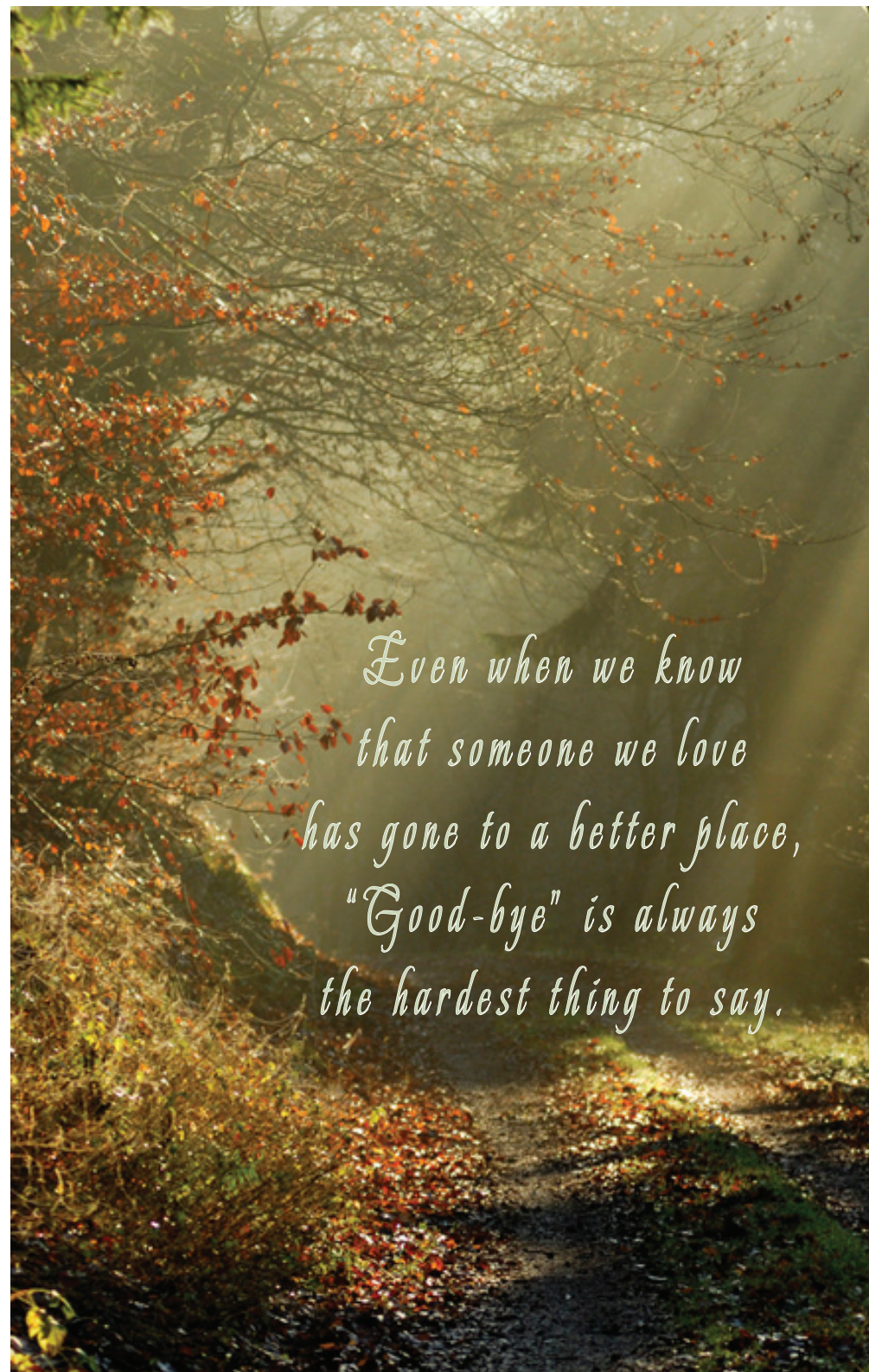
A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go.

There are no goodbyes for us.

Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY BUEHLER-LARSON FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE

1701 Sunset Drive, Mandan, North Dakota 58554 · Phone: (701) 663-9630



*Even when we know
that someone we love
has gone to a better place,
"Good-bye" is always
the hardest thing to say.*



Merilynn Starck, 81, Mandan, died September 21, 2020.

Merilynn was born October 18, 1938 in Mandan to Virgil and Cecelia (Froelich) Gerding. She attended St. Joseph’s grade school in Mandan and graduated from Mandan High School in 1956. Merilynn worked as an operator at NW Bell Telephone before she married her high school sweetheart, Jack D. Starck on December 28, 1957, which was her parent’s 20th wedding anniversary. Together they raised their family following Jack’s telephone career from Mandan to Bismarck (1960), to Dickinson (1962), to Bowman (1965), and back to Bismarck in 1967.

Merilynn’s joy in life was her family and especially the little children. Family and friends gathering began early in her married life with Christmas being especially important. She spent countless hours preparing, sewing matching outfits for her family, decorating, and cooking and baking to share with everyone.

She was always involved in children’s education having served as coordinator for pre-school programs at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit for 12 years and CCD for 21 years. During this time she was also a volunteer library aid at Roosevelt Elementary School. Merilynn then worked for several years at NW Bell Telephone as an order writer in the business office, before becoming the librarian at Dorothy Moses Elementary, a position she enjoyed for over 21 years.

Merilynn’s hobbies were sewing for herself and family, card making, stamping, and scrapbooking. She enjoyed traveling, family, camping, and gathering for family and friend’s events. In 2020 her health declined due to the loss of her social networking. She missed her weekly lunches with the retired teachers of Dorothy Moses and occasional gatherings of the Cathedral retired teachers.

She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who left many cherished memories for those who loved her. She will be missed by friends and family who remember her for who she was before her diagnosis.

Left with those wonderful memories of her life well lived is her husband of 62 years, Jack Starck; their five children, Brenda Starck, Pamela (Tad) McGurk, Denise (Dwight) Gradin, Brad (Jocelynn) Starck, and Peggy Masset; 8 grandkids and 8 great grandkids; brother, John (Arlene) Gerding; and sisters, Sandy Olson and Debbie (Kelly) Heid.

Merilynn was preceded in death by her parents, Virgil (1974) and Cecelia (2003); son-in-law, Glen Masset (2020); and brother-in-law, Larry Olson (2016).

Memorials are preferred to the Alzheimers Association or the ND Veterans Cemetery.

Please go to www.BuehlerLarson.com to share memories of Merilynn.

Funeral Liturgy

Friday, September 25, 2020; 10:30 am
Christ the King Catholic Church, Mandan, ND

Celebrant

Fr. Fred Harvey

Musicians

Alice Gerhardt & Vance Krebs

Readers

Samuel Gradin & Kaylene Kitelinger

Opening Song

“Be Not Afraid”

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Prayer

Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Response

Psalms 27

“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

New Testament

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Gospel

John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27

Homily

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts

“Peace Is Flowing Like A River”

Consecration of Eucharist

Communion Songs

“Here I am, Lord” & “Jesus Loves Me”

Final Commendation

“Song of Farewell”

Closing Song

“Joyful, Joyful”

Committal will take place at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery immediately following the funeral service.

The family invites you for lunch and fellowship at the Mandan Eagles Club, 1400 Collins Avenue, following the burial. All are welcome.