

Blanche Mathilda (Fruth) Dorn, the daughter of Simon and Mathilda “Tillie” Roers, was born in Urbank, Minnesota on March 24, 1935. She was the youngest of 4 children. Most of her childhood and young adult life was spent in Urbank where she helped out in her family’s businesses: a beer joint and meat locker. Her family was very active at their local Catholic Church, Sacred Heart, and from a young age on, she tended to her faith by attending mass regularly. She attended school through eighth grade at Sacred Heart School in Urbank and then graduated from Parker’s Prairie High School.

Blanche married Harold J. Koep, Sr on June 23, 1954. They began growing their family, and together had 5 children: Linda, Stanley, Harlan, Alan and Harold. Blanche and Harold resided in Urbank. Tragedy struck their family, when Harold died unexpectedly during a work accident.

Soon thereafter, Blanche moved her family to Alexandria where she raised their 5 young children. In addition to parenting, she worked as the activity director at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital and later at St. Mary’s School as a cook. Blanche didn’t have much downtime, but when she had a chance she loved listening to records, gardening, playing cards, and she took her kids to Lake Clitheral each summer.

Faith was important to Blanche. She sent all of her children to St. Mary’s Catholic School for their grade school education and she instilled in them the importance of faith and family.

Blanche started dating again and met Bernard (Bernie) Dorn. After nearly a decade of dating they married at St. Mary’s Catholic Church on July 19, 1973. Bernie and Blanche welcomed their little daughter Lori later that year. Over the many years of their marriage, they shared time together gardening, playing cards, fishing, and dancing. Together they hosted family gatherings at the farm, loved attending church bazaars and attended countless celebrations for their grandchildren and extended families.

Blanche was a proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother and spent much of her life helping take care of her grandkids and attended lots of their special events and activities. She taught most of her grandkids to play cards and shake dice and was always up for telling stories. Anyone who spent time with her knew she loved to share a meal and game of cards. She was known for making a mean hotdish and she canned lots of pickles and sauce, which her friends and family enjoyed. Some words that describe Blanche would be: resilient, steady, fun-loving, stubborn, caring, and kind.

After losing Bernie to dementia, Blanche’s health declined and she lived, with assistance and care, at Edgewood of Alexandria and The Veteran’s Home of Fergus Falls. She became a very beloved resident, and the staff really loved Blanche’s watchful eye and help with the other residents. She was affectionately called “The Boss of the North”.

Blanche M. Dorn died on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at Lake Region Healthcare Fergus Falls Hospital with her loving family at her side. She is survived by her children, Linda Rosenow of Osakis, Alan (friend, Sara Amor) Koep of Osakis, Harold (friend, Teresa Terfehr) Koep of Alexandria and Lori (Chris) Wittkamp of Garfield, 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husbands; her parents; her siblings Erwin, Lorayne, and Luella; her sons, Stanley & Harlan Koep; her grandchildren Krystal Koep & Karina Koep; daughter-in law, Lori Koep; and son-in law, Terry Rosenow.

## *In Loving Memory*



*Blanche M. Dorn*

*1935 ~ 2023*

*In Memory of*  
**Blanche M. Dorn**

March 24, 1935 † June 7, 2023

**Mass of Christian Burial**  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Alexandria, Minnesota

Monday, June 12, 2023 11:00 AM

*The Day God Called You Home*

*God looked around His garden  
and found an empty space.*

*Then He looked down upon the earth  
and saw your tired face.*

*He put his arms around you,  
lifted you to rest.*

*God's garden must be beautiful,  
for He only takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering.  
He knew you were in pain.*

*He saw the road was getting rough,  
and the hills were hard to climb.*

*So He closed your weary eyes,  
and whispered, "Peace be thine".*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you did not go alone.*

*For part of us went with you,  
the day God called you home.*

**Officiant**

Reverend Matthew Kuhn

**Words of Remembrance**

Harold Koep

**Cross Bearer**

Kesha Okerlund

**Servers**

Dylan and Tate Hetland

**Readers**

Tara Hetland

Lindsay Christensen

**Gift Bearers**

Sarah Young

Steph Breth

Katie Koep

**Casket Bearers**

(Blanche's Grandsons)

Tyler Wittkamp

Scott Koep

A.J. Koep

Kalan Koep

Kendon Koep

Adam Koep

**Honorary Casket Bearers**

All of Blanche's Granddaughters and  
Great Grandchildren

**Entombment**

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery  
Alexandria, Minnesota