

WINGS

I like butterflies,

I like birds,

I like angels.

They all have wings

To fly high, high in the sky

To visit the Father and His Son.

I too, some day will receive wings,

And I too will see the Father and Son,

~~~ BUT ~~~

I won't merely visit, I will remain in the

Mansion God prepared for me.

~ Drene D. Thomas 9-25-2018 ~

*In Loving
Memory*





Irene Thomas has been given her wings and has flown high, high into the sky to be with her Lord. She died peacefully surrounded by the love of her two daughters on February 5, 2021.

Irene was the daughter of Adolph and Martha (Gruzie) Zeller, born in Heil, ND, in 1929 in the back bedroom of the farmhouse on Easter Sunday. She graduated from Elgin High School in 1947 and then moved to Bismarck to start her secretarial career. In 1950, Irene met and married the love of her life, Phil Thomas, Jr. They lived in Mandan where they raised

their family and Phil operated Thomas TV and Appliance. Irene retired from the ND State Highway Department as an administrative assistant in the early 70's.

Irene was known for her zest for life and being quite the lively woman. In addition to the zany side, she was well traveled and accrued many accomplishments. Phil and Irene traveled to Europe five times and visited six of the seven continents. She was quite active in the local Ladies Auxiliary of the Eagles. As Conductress of the Eagles Ritual Team they took national honors. Irene was active in many organizations and served as president for three of them. At age 72, Irene became a Certified Nursing Assistant and brought joy to many residents of the facilities in both Mesa, AZ, and Mandan. Her greatest accomplishment was becoming a published poet. After her husband passed on in 1991, she continued to drive back & forth to Mesa, where she wintered, until she was 83 years old. She had many close friends in both Mandan and Mesa. Irene was also a 31 year breast cancer survivor.

Irene was loved by all who met her. She always said, "There is enough love to go around." She adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren and was famous for getting down on the floor and playing with them.

She is survived by two loving daughters, Marlene (Kendal) Fitzer, Mendota Heights, MN and Nanci (Larry) Schwindt, Mandan; sister, Marie (Murray) Baldwin, Mesa, AZ; grandchildren, Rikka (Mark) Kerber and Kai Skyberg (fiancée Olivia McIntyre) all of St. Paul, MN, and Brett (Melanie) Schwindt, Palmdale, CA; and great-grandsons, Hayden and Oliver Schwindt, Palmdale, CA.

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

Prayer Service

Thursday, February 11, 2021; 7:00 PM

Buehler-Larson Funeral Home

Funeral Service

Friday, February 12, 2021; 2:00 PM

First Lutheran Church

408 9th Street NW, Mandan, ND

Officiant

Pastor Phil Leer

Musician

Loretta White

Honorary Pallbearers

Rikka Kerber, Melanie Schwindt,

Hayden Schwindt, Oliver Schwindt, Olivia McIntyre, & Carmen Doney

Casketbearers

Kai Skyberg, Brett Schwindt, Larry Schwindt,

Ken Fitzer, Mark Kerber, & Mike Bliese

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF IRENE THOMAS

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Rite

Gathering

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Opening Song

"Beautiful Savior"

Invocation and Prayer

Scripture Selections

Isaiah 40:28-31

Psalms 91:1-6; 11-12

Philippians 4:4-9

John 1:1-5; 9-14

Special Music by Kendal Fitzer ~ Son-in-law

"How Great Thou Art"

Sermon

Prayers of the Church

"Hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

Sending/Commendation

Closing Song

"Precious Memories"

Recessional

*Committal will be at Mandan Union 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 service.*