



Bernice M. Watland

June 22, 1923 - November 13, 2023

Bernice M. Watland

age 100, of Park Falls, died on Monday November 13, 2023, at Marshfield Hospital in Minocqua. She was born on June 22, 1923, in Butternut, the daughter of George Sr. and Petronella (Smola) Meindl. She was a graduate of Butternut High School. On June 26, 1946, she married Clarence L. "Sparky" Watland in Park Falls. The couple lived in Park Falls where Bernice worked various jobs including MacGregor Litho, Dr. Miller, Flambeau Hospital, and the Chamber of Commerce. In 2022 she moved to Milestone Senior Living Woodruff. Bernice enjoyed living on Butternut Lake and boating with her husband and snowmobiling. Family and grandkids were her love. Dancing was definitely a passion and she polkaed, waltzed and two stepped her way around WI. Loved to play cards especially Bridge. In her later years she embraced online games with her Kindle. She was very talented and could sew, knit, paint and was known for her beautiful lace doilies. She is survived by her (2)daughters: Nancy Lee Nelson of Westfield and Coralee (Larry Voigt) Erickson of Minocqua, (5)grandchildren, (7)great-grandchildren, (1)great-great-granddaughter, and many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Clarence, her son-in-law Stanley Nelson, (4)sisters: Clara Meindl, Leona Greer, Laura Meindl, and Helen Burch, and (5)brothers: George, Walter, Elmer, Albert, and Herbert Meindl.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Park Falls on Monday November 20, 2023 at 11:00am. Fr. Shaji Pazhukkathara will officiate.

Interment will follow at Nola Cemetery in Park Falls.

A visitation will be held at the church on Monday from 10:00am until the hour of the service.

Birch Street Funeral Service is assisting the family.
www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com

Cemetery Details

Nola Cemetery

Park Falls, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
276 5th Ave South
Park Falls, WI 54552

Memorial Mass

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
276 5th Ave South
Park Falls, WI 54552

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *My sympathy to you, Coralee and Nancy. I remember your Mom as one of the great neighborhood Moms, always active and always so nice to all.*

Carol Malach Gutt - December 03, 2023 at 10:24 PM

SS

“ *What a great lady! I grew up next door to the Watlands in a neighborhood that I think was phenomenal. My sympathy to you Corky and Nancy.*

Sue Seidl - November 15, 2023 at 09:09 PM

“ Grateful for you Mom and all the great, fun times, Grandma, Great Grandma, Great-Great Grandma - The family legend. Much love and you'll never be forgotten from your loving family. I know you are still here watching over all of us, and don't worry I won't get hurt. (She always worried something would happen to me).

Mom was a loving wife to her dear husband "Sparky", her children and grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great granddaughter.

Her early life was on a farm in Butternut where she was the youngest of 10. Her "toys" were little kittens and she would put paper shoes on them and have fun watching them slide around the kitchen floor. There she learned about farm life, raising animals and gardening. Washing clothes was done on the kitchen wood cook stove in a boiler with homemade soap. Her parents had a Model T. They drove a horse drawn school bus. and In the winter when her Dad went to his brother's logging camp to earn more money her mother hitched up the team and she drove the sleigh. Just imagine that life. So, needless to say she's seen a lot and learned a lot. After graduation, she was off to Milwaukee, hired as a nanny for a few years. There she could experience city life and her passion of dancing at clubs as oftentimes, a couple of her brothers would come and take her out on the town.

Somewhere in these years she was home for vacation and met Sparky at a dancehall in Park Falls. He was a soldier in the Army so they had to endure the war years apart.

When Sparky came home from the war, they married and lived in Park Falls. For the times, they had a rather ideal life I think, new homes, always a place on Butternut lake for boating and planned nice road trips around the U.S. and Canada. When snowmobiling became popular they enjoyed lots of miles on the trails. Dad liked to Dance as much as much as Mom, so they had happy feet. At that time in Park Falls there were lots of opportunities for live music. They had lots of fun.

Mom was very talented at handiwork and painting, but she had a

real passion for playing cards and was in a couple of bridge clubs since I can remember.

Unfortunately, she was widowed at an early age. Later she met Joe Hack and they were wonderful friends. They had an enjoyable 10 years of dating and dancing and enjoying each other's families. She filled in more of her golden years by embracing technology and played online games on her computer and kindle and emailed friends to stay in touch with family and friends. Always striving to learn new things.

Many weekends were spent at her daughter's homes with the "grands" and playing lots of card games with the kids. She was pretty game to go swimming, or for an occasional ride on a UTVs and even a short motorcycle ride with a grandson about 5 years ago.

Her last 13 months were spent at Milestone senior living in Woodruff where she was well cared for. She had to learn all new people, friends (at 100, I don't think that was so easy). She had a beautiful apartment decorated with a lifetime collection of her favorite things and family photos.

She sat at a table in the dining room that had some other real characters and they played off each other. Sometimes she'd still be laughing about all the silliness later in the day when she'd tell me about it.

Well, I believe it was a life well lived.

She said she wanted to stay around forever even on her last day. Then, she said " I'll see you the next time around" to everyone and love you all.

Coralee Watland Erickson - November 15, 2023 at 01:47 PM

LB

Thoughts and prayers

Linda Bodoh - November 15, 2023 at 01:57 PM



Coralee, this tribute is absolutely beautiful!! Thank you for sharing her story. I loved being around her. "There is no death, only change." I so believe this. She is so happy now and enjoying being back home. She was indeed a wonderful person on this earth and spread much cheer and love. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and her family here as you plan on saying so long to your matriarch, and super Grandma, Great and Great-Great . Bless you as you travel this journey. I know you are surrounded by family and friends who love you and will be there for you. You have been such a caring, loving daughter. Take good care of yourself. Love you. Jackie Bowen

Jackie Bowen - November 15, 2023 at 10:02 PM

LS

A beautiful tribute to your mom. She was wonderful and always had time to talk. My deepest sympathy to you all.

Linda Neeck Smith - November 16, 2023 at 07:29 AM

BE

A great tribute to your mom. She was a wonderful lady. My thoughts and prayers are with you Corky.

Beth Eder - November 16, 2023 at 08:52 AM

VH

I think of Aunt Bernice so often. She called me just a few days before she left us all. She always remembered my birthday and she and Sparky and the little girls would come to visit us at the lake. I was a teenager back then. I miss her so much my heart aches for her sometimes. I'm glad she had such a wonderful life when she was old. She was adored by her family and she always remembered me.e..

Virginia Healy - February 02, 2025 at 08:27 PM