



Dolores R. Merten

February 11, 1928 - January 14, 2018

Dolores (nee Wentzek) Merten, 89, passed away on Sunday, January 14th in Holland, Michigan. Dolores was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin on February 11, 1928 to the late Wilhelm and Amanda (Graumann) Wentzek. Her parents moved to Germany when she was an infant and she grew up in Northern Germany. In her late teens, Dolores moved back to the US and lived with relatives in Michigan and Wisconsin. She worked first in a Ford plant in Detroit and later at Coopers (now Jockey International). On July 1, 1950 she married Philip Merten in Kenosha, Wisconsin. While raising her family, Dolores was very active in St. Mary's Catholic Church and School as well as Mount Carmel School. After her children were grown, she went back to work first at Wickes Financial Services and later at Younkers department store where she has worked for the past 25 years both in Racine, Wisconsin and most recently Holland, Michigan. Dolores, best known by many family and friends as Oma, made friends wherever she went. She loved to knit, crochet, and do needle work of all types. She never missed Wheel of Fortune or Jeopardy and was also an avid sports fan, but especially the Chicago Cubs and all University of Notre Dame sports teams.

Dolores is survived by her children, Diana (John) Bourke, Dale Merten and Dean (Denise) Merten; her grandchildren Christopher and Jennie (Barchfeld) Bourke, Kevin and Kristina (Vogel) Bourke, and Matthew Johnson; and her great-grandchildren Abigail, Brooklyn, Benjamin and Kennedy Bourke. She is

also survived by a brother, William (Elizabeth) Wentzek of Beaverton, Oregon and two sisters in Germany, Renate (Bernhard) Behnke and Marianne Heinke. "Oma" will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Dolores was preceded in death by her husband, Philip F. Merten, her parents, and many sisters- and brothers-in-law. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th St. Holland. Funeral services will be held in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Benjamin's Hope (Benjaminshope.net) in Holland, Michigan or the Kenosha Achievement Center (theKac.com) in Kenosha, Wisconsin. www.langelandsterenbergh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dolores R. Merten*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I will always remember Auntie Dolores as a fun-loving person. I can still hear her voice and laughter at family gatherings. We will all miss her. Stephanie Holbik (Mary Merten's daughter)"*

Stephanie Holbik - January 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I am so sorry for your loss! I have a number of very fond memories of a number of family times we had together. It is unfortunate that we have lost touch through the years! Dolores and my Mother (Inga Koch) could easily pass for sisters! It doesn't matter how old your Mother is - it is always a huge loss and leaves a void in our lives. I hope you can find comfort in the many good memories you have. Love, The Hummel Family (Deb Koch-Hummel - Inga & Dave Koch's daughter)"*

Deb Koch - January 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MG

“What a special grandmother Oma was. We met her at Chris and Jennie's wedding festivities and she has held a special place in our hearts since. She had a twinkle in her eye like very few others in this world. A lady who followed through on her word, including the needle point hankie she made for my husband on our wedding day, which she mailed to us from Holland in time for our wedding. We are so sad to gear of her passing, but what a legacy and example she left behind. If only we could all be so kind, what a peaceful world this would be. With deepest sympathies...”

Marianne and Brian Griffin - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BA

“To the Merten Family, I am Barbara (Koch) Dierksheide, daughter of Inga (Rode) and Dave Koch. I am sorry to learn of your loss. My mother would often ask about Dolores, but my mom is gone now (2-14-14). You have our sincere sympathy! Your mother and my mother bear a very striking resemblance! Prayers are with all of you!”

Barbara - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RL

“Mark and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. The many great memories ,(especially our high school fun times with your mom),will forever warm my heart. What a great lady! She'll be in our prayers. love, Rosie”

Rosie and Mark Leuck - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JU

“What a beautiful life.....my condolences to you and your family, Diana.”

Judy - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CM

“*"Auntie Dolores was always an interesting person to talk with. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She will be missed by the whole family."*

Cathy Meininger - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AZ

“*"My condolences to Dale, Dean, and Diana. We loved your mother very much. I will miss our talks, debates, and laughs. Rest peacefully."*

Alicia Zeedyk - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BW

“*"My family and I are very sad to have lost my sister in death. I will miss my dear sister Dolores (Mausi as I called her) very much. Throughout my life she has been a wonderful sister and friend to me! Our heartfelt sympathy and love goes out to my niece, nephews and their families."*

Bill Wentzek - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GC

“*"Dolores was one of the first "friends" I had while working for a year or so at Younkers in Holland. She and I seemed to hit it off right from the start. I enjoyed her humor and smile, as well as her kind and gentle spirit. The customers loved her too! There are not too many wonderful people around like Dolores. She will be missed greatly by all who knew her."*

Gene Coburn - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KM

“*"Prayers for the family of Delores , from Medallion Salon"*

Karen Meyer - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KM

“*Delores you will be missed by all your friendly smile, your laughter and all the fun we had.*”

Karen Meyer - January 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM