



## Shirley Ann Bentsdahl

April 28, 1937 - August 21, 2020

Link to view livestream - <https://youtu.be/arLSL-ydYV4>

Link to service program - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iWXmP0Opyda\\_VyWX-j3XB4Ewll-5dYEn/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iWXmP0Opyda_VyWX-j3XB4Ewll-5dYEn/view)

Bentsdahl, Shirley Ann (Klingsheim) age 83, of Scottsdale, AZ passed away peacefully on August 21st surrounded by her loving family in her home in Edina, MN. She suffered a massive stroke on June 25, 2019. She not only survived the stroke, but she worked tirelessly for fourteen months to recover. A testament to the lifelong commitment she had to exercise and staying in excellent shape. She was born on April 28, 1937 and raised on her family farm near Harmony, MN. She graduated from Harmony High School in 1955 with honors as class Valedictorian. She graduated from Luther College in 1959, served one term on the Board of Regents, and was a recipient of the Luther College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. She had a love for learning and a love of teaching. She taught 7th and 8th grade English at LaCrescent High School for many years. She was a tutor and mentor to homeless children enrolled at the Pappas Kids Schoolhouse Foundation in Phoenix, AZ. She went on to create the Ray Bentsdahl Scholarship Foundation to allow many of the Pappas students to attend college and graduate school.

Her last student was just accepted to the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law. Once she started something, she saw it through to the end. She also created a scholarship fund for students graduating from Harmony High School to attend Luther College. She was a generous philanthropist and active member of Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina, MN and the Pinnacle Peak Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, AZ. She was a long-time choir member in both church choirs and took great pride in hosting the annual choir party at her home in Scottsdale. When the family moved from southern MN to Edina she started a flower business, LesFleurs, and she was well known among interior designers as the "go to" flower designer in the Twin Cities. Her greatest joy was spending time with her devoted family and her many, many friends. She married the love of her life, Ray Bentsdahl, when they were seniors attending Luther College in Decorah, IA. They spent 53 years together and raised a wonderful family. She is survived by her children Ann (husband Roger), Craig; grandchildren Kelsey, Kinsey, Kelly and Kate; step-grandsons Tyler and Cory; nieces Kristi Nitz and Mary Babel; grandnieces Avery, Lyla, Carolyn and grandnephews Ryan, Noah, and Keane. She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur E. and Amelia T. (Olson) Klingsheim, sister Elenore, brother Kenny, and her devoted husband and best friend, Elray E. "Ray" Bentsdahl. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Luther College (700 College Drive, Decorah, IA 52101), the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation (920 E. 28th Street #100, Minneapolis, MN 55407) or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (3001 Metro Drive #100, Bloomington, MN 55425). Visitation will be on Friday, August 28th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel (5000 West 50th Street, Edina, MN.) Due to Covid-19 restrictions, masks must be worn. Private funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 29th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, (3600 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN.) The public is encouraged to watch the funeral service via online streaming, please see her obituary page on Washburn-McReavy.com for details. Interment to follow at the Bentsdahl gravesite at Lakewood Cemetery immediately following the funeral service.

Masks required and safe distancing encouraged.

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# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **28**. 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

## Graveside Service

AUG **29**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)  
3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Tribute Wall

RT

“ Sorry for your loss, Ray and Shirley were God parents for my son Tom back in the Rushford days, many good memories of them both. Ron Torkelson

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**RONALD TORKEKELSON** - August 31, 2020 at 09:25 PM

LW

“ So glad that we could watch the service. I wish we could have been there for you. You all shared so many nice memories. Kelsey did a beautiful job. It not easy to do sing or speak when you are hurting so badly. We always enjoyed time spent with your family.

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**Liz Wessels** - August 29, 2020 at 12:08 PM

AF

“ Dear Ann & Craig

*Blessings for you and your lovely families.*

*Shirley's abundant love and light will continue to surround you from above. She infused life with humor and artistry--she shared and inspired. What a gift we have in knowing her, her dedication, her strength.*

*We are with you at this time and always--all of you, her dear and most treasured family.*

*The Ansaris*

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**Ansari Family** - August 29, 2020 at 09:09 AM

SH

“ *Sally and Bob Hauser purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Shirley Ann Bentsdahl.*



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**Sally and Bob Hauser** - August 28, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Bentsdahl.*



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August 27, 2020 at 08:04 AM

RB

“ *Ann & Craig*

*Bettie Lou and I were heartbroken to hear that your Mom had passed away. We were close friends of your Mom and Dad for many years. We have wonderful memories of both of them. We know that you will miss your Mom, but we pray that you will always enjoy special memories of a wonderful person. May God give you strength to go on with life.*

*Rob & Bettie Lou Bunke*

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**Rob & Bettie Lou Bunke** - August 26, 2020 at 11:00 AM

LJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family as you navigate this next stage of life. What a blessing she and Ray are together once again. So privileged we had opportunity to know and enjoy Shirley over the years!

Our sincere condolences,  
Rodney and Laura Jordan

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**Laura and Rod Jordan** - August 25, 2020 at 09:25 PM

CS

“ Prayers and blessings to you Ann, Craig and family. Ray and Shirley are now together again and loving and caring for you all from above. Our sincere condolences and we will be thinking of you on Saturday and for the days to come. Chris & Deb Skaalen and family and Rachel Skaalen.

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**Christopher Skaalen** - August 25, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Bentsdahl.



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August 25, 2020 at 07:49 PM