



## Theoda Clara Bjerken

July 16, 1925 - March 22, 2025

Theoda C. Bjerken, age 99, of Columbia Heights, passed away Saturday, March 22nd, 2025, surrounded by family. Theoda was 4 months short of her 100th birthday.

Theoda Clara Ruthenbeck was born on July 16th, 1925, in Okabena, MN, one of twelve children. She practiced nursing as an LPN before marrying Julien O. Bjerken on July 20th, 1951. She and Julien raised 7 children in Columbia Heights, MN where she was a lifelong resident. Theoda was known for her cooking, sewing, and embroidery skills. She was happiest with her family and friends. Her faith was a prominent part of her life.

She is preceded in death by her parents Charles and Martha Ruthenbeck, husband Julien, daughter Kathy Mahler, daughter-in-law Anna Bjerken, sons-in-law Arthur Englehart, Donald Tovsen, Joseph Hill, and all 11 siblings.

She is survived by sons Wayne (Betty) and Randy, daughters Julene Englehart, Deborah Tovsen, Dianna Hill, Kimberly (Tom) Kassekert, and son-in-law Jim Mahler. Also 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held Thursday, April 3rd, 2025, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4101 Washington Street NE, in Columbia Heights. Visitation will be

from 10-11 am, followed by a funeral service at 11 am. A luncheon will follow the service. Burial will be held Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, at 1:00 pm, at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## **Fort Snelling National Cemetery**

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Tribute Wall

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“ *From the Berg family. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Theoda Clara Bjerken.*



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**From the Berg family.** - March 30, 2025 at 01:19 PM

BK

“ *We have known this beautiful woman for many years and have always admired her resilience in the face of any adversity. Rest in peace, Theoda. Bob and Rosemary Kassekert.*

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**Bob and Rosemary Kassekert** - March 27, 2025 at 07:36 PM