



Vera G. (Oesterreich) Ogren

October 26, 1923 - March 12, 2025

Vera G. (Oesterreich) Ogren passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at the age of 101 years and 4 months.

Vera was born on October 26, 1923 in South Saint Paul, MN to Alice and Paul Oesterreich. She attended school in South St. Paul graduating from high school in 1941. Her first full time job was at Western Union as telephone operator in St Paul, MN

During WWII she spent two years working at the Santa Maria, CA Army Airfield as civilian supply officer.

In 1947 she married Joseph W. Ogren, whom she had known during her school years. The two moved to Rochester, MN in 1954.

Vera worked at several places in Rochester including: Daytons, K&K Electric, Hanny's Mens Wear, and after 17 years as secretary for the Zumbro Valley Mental Health Crisis Unit, she retired in in 1989.

To get out of the Midwest cold, she and Joe spent 13 fun years wintering in North Padre Island, TX enjoying their time on the golf courses or walking on the beach.

Vera was an avid golfer. She belonged to the Soldier's Field Ladies League for 40 years. She was also part of the Eastwood golf course & Elks Club golf leagues.

Vera enjoyed playing 500 and other card games, reading, crossword and word search puzzles, bible study and volunteering at Bethel Lutheran Church; and, for many years serving as an election judge.

She especially enjoyed visiting her children in Vancouver, WA, Boca Raton, FL, Ames, Iowa and the Twin Cities.

She is predeceased by her husband Joseph W. Ogren, her parents, three brothers and spouses.

After Joe's death Vera moved into Realife, a senior cooperative in Rochester, where she resided for 18 years. She participated in many activities there and enjoyed the friendships that developed.

She is survived by her five children Lynn (Ed Mack) Ogren, Timothy (Rhonda) Ogren, Deborah Postell, Cynde (Joel) Brackenbury and Lisa (John Mageli) Heddens, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials may be sent to Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN or to your local Special Olympics organization. On-line tribute wall at Washburn-McReavy.com. Hillside Chapel.

Tribute Wall

PZ

“ Vera was a former neighbor of mine in SE Rochester. She was also a bank customer of mine. We both attended Bethel Lutheran Church where Vera was my daughter, Amanda’s mentor for confirmation. If I remember correctly there was a crocheted or knitted afghan in the mix there somewhere. She was living at Realiife at the time. Vera was a very special lady and while passing her SE home, I often wondered where she was and how she was doing. Now I know she is in Heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ! May her family find peace in knowing that. I’m praying for all of you, Paulette Zenner

Paulette Zenner - March 29, 2025 at 10:08 AM

LH

“ Mom, I miss talking with you and updating you about Mak & Paul and what’s going on in my life. I miss our conversations, your subtle sense of humor and hearing about highlights in your life. Such memories I have at such a young age. I hope you’re st peace. Love and miss you. Lisa

Lisa Heddens - March 28, 2025 at 09:16 PM

NT

“ Vera was a dear childhood friend and neighbor of my mother, Nina Ostrom Taylor. They met when they were 6 and 8 years old, respectively. I met Vera in 1978, and then again in 2000, on visits to MN.

But it wasn't until 2015, when I started writing a WW2 book about my mom, that I contacted Vera and asked her to read a chapter about South St. Paul. She was so positive, encouraging and enthusiastic that I ended up sending her every one of the subsequent chapters as I wrote them. She really helped me get through the writing process (and to enjoy it more). After that, we became "email pen pals" and never stopped. Whenever I saw jvgolf in my in-box, I always thought, "Oh, good!"

*I'll miss hearing from her. She was great.
- Nadine Taylor*

Nadine Taylor - March 28, 2025 at 01:17 PM

CB

“ Mom, miss you so very much. Miss our weekly calls. You were always so interested how the family was doing and what they were up to. Your memory was amazing, often better than mine. We had some great times golfing, and usually getting caught in the rain. The trip to London and Italy was amazing. Love always, Cynde



Cynde Brackenbury - March 27, 2025 at 01:51 PM

CF

“ My grandma of 101 years old was still living on her own. When I saw her for her 100th bday she looked great. I asked her who cleans your apartment? She said she cleaned it with some help from her kids. Her place looked like she had a cleaning service. I was amazed that she did so much on her own at her age . She was such a strong woman and now I know where we all got it from. She was a mother of 5 wonderful kids and a wonderful wife to Joe her husband who passed 20 years ago .She was a grandmother to 6 grand kids and I was her 1st grandchild. She was a great grandma to 8 grand kids. Caileigh Fisher was her 1st grand child who's 20yrs old. She has seen us grow up and seen so much in her life. She's always been there for all of us. She had such a big heart and would do anything for you. I'm so blessed she has been able to see all of us and do so much outdoor activities with us throughout the years. My grandma has a FB page and would go on it even at age 101 years old to see our post and see what's new with all of us she never looked like she was 100 . I sure hope I take after her lol . She loved to play the game marbles and was really competitive and good at it .Grandma Vera Ogren you will be deeply missed and thought of forever. 🧠💜👍 love you so much !

channa fisher - March 21, 2025 at 12:55 PM