



Viola Thora Fahrendorff

March 8, 1925 - February 1, 2023

Fahrendorff, Viola Thora "Vi"
(Nee Blomlie)

Though saddened by our loss, our family is grateful for her; and we cherish the memories of our time together.

The Lord granted Vi a peaceful passing in the afternoon on February 1, 2023, just a few hours after she declared that she wanted to die then and there.

Vi was a devoted daughter, a loving wife and mother (best mom ever!), a beloved grandma, great and great-great grandma, and an adored sister, aunt, and friend. She will be missed dearly. Her memory and love will live on in our minds and hearts.

Vi wanted her family to know that she was sorry to go, that she loved them all, and that she had enjoyed a long happy life. She attributed that to being a full-blooded Norwegian.

On March 7, 1925, Vi was born in Medina Township, Minnesota, to John and Thora (nee Lein) Blomlie who both were born in Norway. The family lived in Long Lake and a few other small towns in Minnesota. Her living siblings were Alice, Adolph, Bill, and Ted.

In 1934 when Vi was 9 the family moved to Northeast Minneapolis. They had an upright piano and Vi taught herself to play in a stride musical manner - fast alternating left hand chords while the right hand played melodies. She enjoyed that all her life. She loved to sing. Everyone was always happy to hear her play.

At age 14 she met Bob James who she married 4 years later. They were married 24 years and were blessed with 3 daughters. In 1983 Vi married Harvey Fahrendorff and was blessed with 4 step-children and their families. Vi had a full life.

Vi loved cheering for the MN teams especially the Vikings, Twins, and the Gophers. Casino trips, lottery scratch-offs, bingo, bowling, playing cards, watching reality TV shows, reading the daily paper, baking bread and cookies were some of the things she enjoyed doing. She always would read pocketbooks, so many books, from Free Little Libraries.

Almost 98 years old, Vi took total care of herself. She was alert, vibrant, witty, spunky, warm and welcoming. Vi took great pride in herself, always had her hair curled and lipstick on. She enjoyed people being surprised at her actual age because she appeared and acted decades younger.

Although Vi was a life-long Minnesotan, for the past few years, she enjoyed escaping the snowy and cold winters by traveling to Southeast Arizona. She enjoyed winters there, no heavy coats or boots.

On January 30, 2023, Vi was admitted to a hospital in Sierra Vista, Arizona, due to chest pressure. The next day after heart surgery, her kidneys began to fail. She was so tired being kept awake with all the poking and prodding. She just wanted to sleep. She had the doctors remove all the hospital equipment.

She felt so much better and could finally rest. Vi passed away a few hours later just as she wanted. Her passing was so unexpected.

Preceded in death by husband Harvey, parents, siblings, daughters Carole Allen Foster and Jan Schroeder, sons Curt and Harold, and sons-in-law Carl Foster, Ken Hagen, and Don Schroeder.

Vi is very sadly missed by daughters Linda (Jerry Wedebrand) Jambik, Joyce Hagen, Nancy (Nick) Barsic, daughters-in-law Alice and Linda, former son-in-law Mike Jambik, and many grand, great-grand, and great-great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and friends.

On Friday, August 4, 2023, please wear casual comfortable clothing to the 11 a.m. service at Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel, 2610 19th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Visitation begins at 10 a.m.

Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery. Vi will be laid to rest up on the hill next to her parents. Luncheon will follow the burial in the community room.

If desired, please include Vi's favorite charity for donations any time. Our Lady of Peace Hospice, 2076 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Chapel Service

AUG 4. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Graveside Service

AUG 4. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)
2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Viola Thora Fahrendorff.*



August 04, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Viola Thora Fahrendorff.*



July 31, 2023 at 08:56 AM



“ *What a wonderful mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother. In a way, for many years, Grandma Vi was the glue that kept the entire family together. Putting on holiday festivities for years on end and always there to help whoever needed it. She was one person who never forgot a birthday or anniversary and would always make it a point to send a card or a few dollars to grandkids and even great-grandkids. She was easily one of the toughest ladies I've ever seen in this world being able to handle some of life's most difficult circumstances with grace. I became very close to Grandma after she moved in with my mom and this loss really hurts. I know she is in a better place now. I love and miss you very much Grandma. - Derek, Heather, Gavin & Kaylee.*

Derek Schroeder - February 06, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ I feel so grateful to have had Vi in my life. When I was very young, it took me a while to realize that not all families were as lucky as we were, in that my Mom & Dad were very friendly with my Dad's first wife and her husband! We spent a lot of time together over the years, through thick and thin. Vi was an amazing lady and I will miss her very much. My heart goes out to you, Lin, and to all of the grandkids and family. ❤️

Bobbi McKechnie - February 05, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ I miss you so much, Mom. I remember you telling me when I was about 10 that you didn't think you'd ever get over your mother's death. Funny the things one remembers. Now I feel the same. You were the best mom ever right up to your last breath. I love you so very, very much.

Linda Jambik - February 05, 2023 at 10:19 AM