

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.



In Loving *Memory* Leona Beckerdite

November 2, 1933 ~ July 31, 2026



Leona Alice Beckerdite, 92, of Mandan, passed away on July 31, 2026, at her home in Mandan.

Leona was born on November 2, 1933, to Michael C. and Irene (Wingenbach) Schafer. She was the fifth of fourteen children and was raised on the family farm near Raleigh, North Dakota. The family later moved five miles south of Flasher. In 1952, Leona moved to Mandan, where she worked at Cloverdale before going to work for JCPenney. In 1956, she moved to Aberdeen, Washington and in 1957, relocated to Los Angeles, California. Leona met the love of her life, Richard Beckerdite, in 1965, and they were married in 1967. They made their home in Desert Hot Springs, California, where Leona managed a toy company for 17 years.

In 1970, they moved to Lavaca, Arkansas, and in 1973, returned to North Dakota, settling in Flasher. Leona worked at Meyer's Café for six years before opening her own restaurant, Leona's Kountry Kitchen, which she operated from 1988 until 1992, when they moved to Mandan. While living in North Dakota, she worked as a cook and waitress for another 18 years.

After one of her daughters got married, Leona decided to learn cake decorating. She created countless wedding, birthday, anniversary, and specialty cakes over a span of 33 years, hauling them wherever they needed to go. The furthest delivery she made was to Lavaca, Missouri. She also created silk flowers for weddings and proms.

Leona's other hobbies included embroidery, baking, painting, playing bingo, and spending time with her grandbabies. She lovingly babysat many of them over the years.

Leona will be deeply missed by her children, Debbie Kuntz of Lincoln, Pam Hauff of Jacksonville, Florida, Cindy (Bobby) Danford of Frenchtown, Montana, and Shelly (Tom) Gartner of St. Anthony; daughter-in-law, Jackie Haag of Bismarck; eight grandchildren, Don (Ann) Haag of Bismarck, Bryan (Ashley) Miller of Fort Worth, Texas, David Kuntz of Lincoln, Casey Wright of Frenchtown, Montana, Chelsey Richter (Brooke Wise) of Mandan, Tonya Berger of Mandan, and Mason Haag (Macy Lorinser) of Mandan; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Eleanor Schaff of Surprise, Arizona, Phyllis Schuh of Sun City, Arizona, Edna Keller of Linton, and Cecelia Schafer of Linton; brothers, Sam (Ruby) Schafer of Hazen and N. Mike Schafer of Bismarck; sister-in-law, JoAnn Schafer of Mandan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents, Mike and Irene Schafer; her parents-in-law, Elmer and June Beckerdite; the love of her life, Richard Beckerdite; her son, Bill Haag; grandson, Chris Haag; sister, Delores Ternes; brothers, Cal Schafer and Alfred Schafer; infant siblings, Bernetta, Richard, Leo, and Adam; sons-in-law, Val Kuntz and Gary Hauff; brothers-in-law, Christ Schaff, Bob Schuh, and Elmer Keller; and sisters-in-law, Robyn Schafer and Peggy Schafer.

The family invites you for food and fellowship at the Mandan Eagles Club, 1400 Collins Avenue, immediately following the funeral Mass. Enter through the north door.

Funeral Service for **Leona Beckerdite**

Rosary & Parish Vigil

Tuesday, August 11, 2026; 7:00 PM
Weigel Funeral Home, Mandan, ND
Presider: Deacon Randy Frohlich

Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, August 12, 2026; 10:30 AM
Church of St. Joseph, Mandan, ND
Celebrant: Fr. Fred Harvey

Urn Bearer

Mason Haag

Honorary Urn Bearers

Melissa Rebenitsch Jeff Schafer
Sonya Wald Gerard Mahrer

Lectors

Ann Haag
Josh Haag

Musicians

Alanna Carlson
Emily Storick

Order of Service

Processional Song

"Here I am, Lord"

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading
Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9
Psalm 116

"I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."

New Testament Reading
Gospel Reading
Homily

Romans 6:3-9
Matthew 5:1-12a

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Song
Presentation of Gifts

"Be Not Afraid"
Tonya Berger, Sadie Berger
Aiden Berger, & Emma Haag

Eucharistic Prayer
Communion Songs
Communion Meditation
Final Commendation
Closing Song

"I Have Loved You"
"Soul of My Savior"
"In Paradisum/May Angels Guide You"
"On Eagle's Wings"

Committal Service

2:00 PM; North Dakota Veterans Cemetery
Mandan, ND