Janice Mae (Paul) Freese was born August 14, 1937 in Appleton, Minnesota. She was one of two children born to Albert and Irma (Diffenbaugh) Paul. She started out living in the town of Appleton, while her dad worked at a flour mill and raised mink. In her teen years they moved out to the grand-parents farm. She had many adventure stories while in town and out in the country. One of her favorites is about her pet raccoon, Chucky, she raised on the farm. She was also involved with 4-H, sewing, baking, piano and organist at church. She also worked at a bakery and bank in Appleton. Janice graduated from Appleton High School in 1955.

In 1956, she met Jerry Freese while roller skating in Appleton. Later that year they were married in December, 1956. While Jerry was drafted in the army, he was sent to Ashaffenburg, Germany. Three months later, Janice joined him there. Ten months later, they returned to the United States and lived on the family farm near Alberta, MN. Jerry was working at the Alberta School and farming, but was offered a better position of supervisor of building and grounds at the Morris School. In 1970, the family moved to Morris, where they built a new home. In 2004, a newer home was built next door for their retirement years that also included a carpentry shop.

Jan and Jerry spent 22 winters in Apache Junction, AZ. They enjoyed traveling, camping clubs and many adventures on their motorcycle. They celebrated 67 years of marriage together.

Her hobbies she enjoyed were; photography, painting, gardening, homemakers club, music, plant sales, and exhibiting photos at the county fair. She was also an excellent organizer, writer and bookkeeper for Jerry's carpentry business.

Janice passed away at Skyview Assisted Living in Morris on Tuesday morning, September 29, 2026 at the age of 89.

She is survived by her four children: John Freese of Pepin, WI, Julie (Howard) Johnson of Willmar, David Freese of Morris and Diana (Randy) Fischer of Tomah, WI; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; brother: Dennis Paul of Cologne, MN; a niece, nephew, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry; her parents and sister-in-law: Ardis Paul.

Please use this QR Code to access Jan's online guestbook.

Pedersen
Funeral & Cremation Service

IN LOVING Memory



Janice Mae Freese

When I must leave you
For a little while—
Please do not grieve
And shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
Through the years,
But start out bravely
With a gallant smile;
And for my sake
And in my name
Live on and do
All things the same,
Feed not your loneliness
On empty days,
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways,
Reach out your hand
In comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;
And never, never
Be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky

Celebrating the Life of

Janice Mae Freese

August 14, 1937 - September 29, 2026

Services At:
Pedersen Funeral Home - Morris, Minnesota
Friday, October 9, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Officiating Clergy:
Jay Anderson

Music:
"In The Garden"
"Take My Hand Precious Lord"
"He"

Pallbearers:
Howard Johnson, Kenton Johnson, Jamie Nelson
Randy Fischer, Adam Fischer, Ben Fischer
Dylan Fischer, Calvin Freese

Honorary Pallbearers:
Bryce Nelson, Braxton Nelson

Interment:
Summit Cemetery
Morris, Minnesota