

Ardis Lorraine Foster of Thief River Falls, MN passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at the Thief River Care Center in Thief River Falls, MN at the age of 97 years, 4 months, and 13 days with her loving daughter by her side.

Ardis was born on August 10, 1928, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota to Edward and Olive Stoughton. She was raised in Thief River Falls, graduating from Lincoln high School Class of 1946. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota in Duluth before moving with her family to Tucson, Arizona.

On December 29, 1950, she was united in marriage to Ralph F. Foster in Washington, D.C. After a honeymoon to New York City to spend New Years Eve in Times Square, they made their first home in Falls Church, Virginia. While there, Ardis was employed by the Department of Labor. In 1953, they welcomed their first son, Ralph Allen, before returning to Thief River Falls where they were joined by son Jonathan and daughter Sandra.

From 1960- 1968 they owned and operated The Junior Shop (a children's clothing store) in Thief River Falls before Ardis went on to work for Union State Bank, The Jewel Box, and Corner Drug.

Among her many community memberships and affiliations in Thief River Falls, she was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, organized and became the president of the local Mrs. Jaycees, Worthy Matron of Easter Star, Bethal Guardian for the Jobs Daughters, Girl Scout Leader, Den Mother for Cub Scout Pack #59, chaperone for the TRFinettes Drum and Bugle Corp, President of the Thief River Falls Ladies Golf League and an active member of her bridge club. She still found time to raise her children plus make and sell her many arts and crafts.

After a few years being "snowbirds" in 1980, she and Ralph moved to Tucson, Arizona where she worked as head cashier for Piccadilly Cafeteria and then Olive Garden before joining the Arizona Department of Revenue until she retired in 1993.

While in Arizona, Ardis was very active in their mobile home park association over the years serving as President, Secretary, and Treasurer. She was voted outstanding resident twice and created and kept up a very nice library for the residents in the club house. She wrote a book about growing up in TRF through the depression for her grandkids and great grandkids. She was caregiver to Ralph for nine years until his passing in 2011.

In 2014, Ardis returned to Thief River Falls, Minnesota to live with her daughter Sandee.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Edward and Olive, husband of 61 years Ralph F., son Jon, great-granddaughter Nova DeFrang, sister Verna Hughes and brother-in-law James Hughes.

Ardis is survived by her son Ralph A. Foster of Chandler, Arizona and daughter Sandee Rude of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Grandchildren Ryan Rude, Kelsy DeFrang, Cody Foster (Melanie) and Brian Foster. Great- Grandchildren Paige (Derik) Sivertson, Trey Ladner (Zoe), Courtney (Deacon), Arielle (Jaden), O'Rian, Sabrina Rude, Koral DeFrang, Autumn "Rylie" McFarland-Foster, Citlali, Ava, Liam and Cillian Alvarez-Foster. Great-Great-Grandchildren Hadley and Blake Sivertson, Cohen Steele and Haisley Kiesow.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls and the Pennington County Humane Society.

May Her Memory be Blessed

Celebrating the Life of



Ardis Lorraine Foster
August 10, 1928 ~ December 23, 2025

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me; see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away—We really aren't apart.
So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above,
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, love is the gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings of love He has for each of you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear;
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year .

I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place
Can you image Christmas with our Savior face to face?
I'll ask him to light your spirit as I tell Him of your love.
Then pray for one another as you lift your eyes above.
So please let your hearts be joyful, and let your spirits sing.
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven— and I'm walking with the King!

- Author Unknown

In loving Memory of
Ardis Lorraine Foster
August 10, 1928 - December 23, 2025

Funeral Service

Johnson Funeral Service
Thief River Falls, Minnesota
11:00 AM Monday, December 29, 2025

Presiding

Reverend Kristin Ostercamp

Congregational Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

Recorded Music ~ Alan Jackson's

“Amazing Grace”

“Old Rugged Cross”

Honorary Pallbearers ~Ardis's Grandchildren

Ryan Rude Kelsy DeFrang
Cody Foster Brian Foster

Interment

Greenwood Cemetery
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

