



In Loving Memory Of

Joyce C. Laabs

April 3, 1950

Atwater, Minnesota

March 24, 2026

Watkins, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Monday, April 6, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home

Willmar, Minnesota

After Glow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.*

*I'd like to leave an after glow
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun
of happy memories
that I leave when life is done.*

-Author Unknown

Prelude

Brayden Frericks

Welcome

Prayer

Song "How Great Thou Art"

Reading of Obituary

Song "It Is Well With My Soul"

Eulogy

Message

Pastor Ross Frericks

Song "Sweet By and By"

Closing Prayer

Instructions

Postlude

Interment

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

Little Falls, Minnesota

Joyce Carol Laabs was born on April 3, 1950, in Atwater, Minnesota, the daughter of Alfred and Muriel (Oslund) Kaderabek. Her earlier years were spent growing up in Kandiyohi County and later in the Litchfield community where she graduated from high school. On December 14, 1968, Joyce was united in marriage to Virgil Andrew Laabs. They lived in the communities of Atwater, Eden Valley, Hector, Grove City, and Kandiyohi. She worked hard as a homemaker and farm wife. Joyce later received her CNA certification from Willmar Vo-Tech and was employed for many years at area nursing homes. She loved and enjoyed caring for others. Joyce found pleasure in growing beautiful flowers and watching birds visit her feeders. She also grew and took care of home-grown vegetables. Strawberries were always her favorite. She enjoyed quiet time drawing beautiful flowers and designs. She cherished being a wife, mother, and especially a grandmother and was affectionately called “Nana” by her grandson, Alex.

Joyce passed away Tuesday, March 24, at Hilltop Health Care Center in Watkins at the age of 75.

She is survived by her daughter, Denise (and Scott) Kingery of Sartell; son-in-law, Dan Johnson of Andover; four grandchildren, Alex, Kolten, Mileigha and Tristen; and one sister, Linnae (and Alan) Paumen of Norwood Young America, besides other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil in January of 2026; her daughter, Kathy in 2018; one brother, Allen; and her parents.