

June Garstka

June (Kerbs) Garstka was born on June 23, 1931 in Berwyn, Illinois. She married Joseph Garstka in 1950 and they raised three children. June touched so many lives by opening her home to people that needed a place to live and taking in foster children, she was grandma to many people. Music, friends, kids and most of all, her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids are what she said gave her the reason to keep on living. Of all of her jobs, she enjoyed being “Grandma” at the Ladysmith Elementary School the best. In June’s younger years, her husband Joe, shared his talent for music with his accordion in the community. June would never miss the chance to go with and sing and dance all night long. That’s why she knew every song we sang, and could never be stumped when we played “Name That Tune”. June was our Sun Goddess! Never was she more content than when she could bask in the sunshine. As soon as the

snow melted, she’d wear shorts and was always ready to sit outside and enjoy the warmth.

She loved buzzing around Ladysmith Living Center greeting everyone, and knew everyone by name.

Bingo was also a favorite activity; she’d get there early and line her bingo markers up just right, years back she had been a volunteer at Ladysmith Living Center for many years calling bingo every week.

Her witty and sassy sense of humor, her down to earth attitude, her ability to enjoy having fun, her stubborn attitude that was beyond cute and her bravery and love that was never ending are the examples and paths she created for the rest of us to follow.



Raymond Gauthier

Raymond Gauthier was born on November 22, 1956 in Radisson, WI. He had two sisters and attended Bruce High School. Ray was proud to serve his country in the U.S. Army Reserves.

He loved being a trucker and enjoyed talking about his experiences while on the road. He was proud to say that he traveled to all 48 states and Canada.



Marijan Gazic

Marijan Gazic was born on February 7,

1928 in Croatia. He married Andja

Vulic, and they had five

children. He also had

13 grandchildren and

25 great grandchildren.

Marijan served in the

Army in his country of

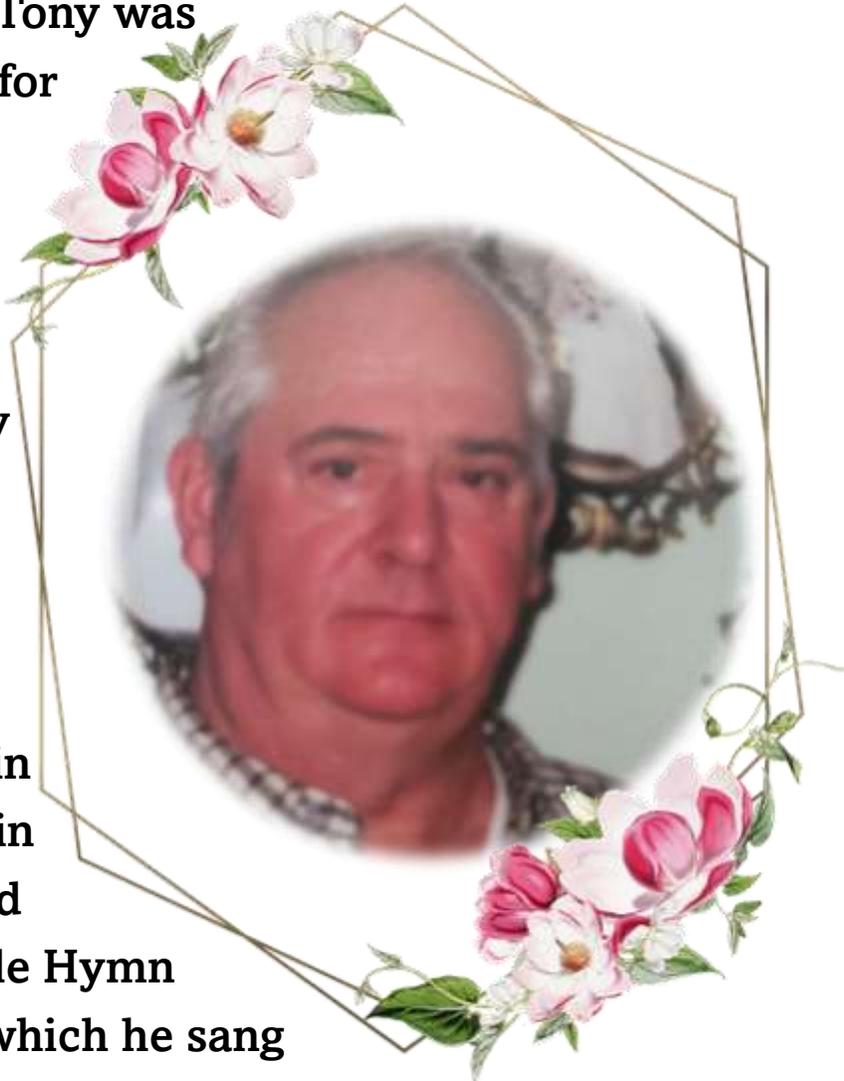
Yugoslavia for two years.

**While living at Lake Manor he enjoyed being outdoors and
visiting with the staff.**



Anthony Groothousen

Anthony J. Groothousen was born on June 18, 1935 in Ladysmith, and lived his life in Tony, WI. He was raised in a large family of eight brothers and sisters. Tony and his wife Marion raised a family of six children. Tony was a farmer and drove school bus for the Flambeau School for many years. He was a favorite bus driver among the kids because he would drop the older kids off at a local gas station so they could buy snacks and pick the kids up later in his route. Tony had a unique, boisterous personality like no other. He was a gifted singer and had us in awe when he would sing solos in our choir. We all looked forward to hearing Tony sing “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” or any hymn which he sang by heart. Tony made an awesome Santa as he greeted everyone with “Ho, Ho, Ho!” He loved to sit in the sunshine, watch westerns and everyone knew his favorite was blackberry brandy!



Gary Hanke

Gary Frederick Hanke was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on November 1, 1939. Gary enlisted in the Army and served for three years. He drove a truck during the Vietnam War, during that time he was stationed in France, Germany & Spain. He was a machinist until he retired in 2001. Gary's wife Judy & his daughter Rebecca visited often. He adored Rebecca, who visited every day and always called her "kid": "Hi, Kid", "Love you, Kid". Gary was a polymath, he was interested in learning about history, figuring out the mechanics of how something worked, and he loved bird watching. He could give advice to an ornithologist! He enjoyed sitting outside, old cars, watching westerns, and going to church with his daughter. Gary served on the VFW Post #394, was a volunteer firefighter, and served in his church, Calvary Lutheran Church in Draper.



Bob Hansen

Bob Hansen was born on August 21, 1958 in Chippewa Falls, WI. His parents built and owned the Twilite Motel in Bloomer. Bob owned and ran his own business as a commercial painter,

Hansen Painting. Bob adored

his wife, Cindy and son, Cole, and their dog,

Cruz. As a family they loved to travel together, and Bob loved to watch Cole play baseball.

Bob had a great personality; he was good natured and funny.

He enjoyed playing pool, trap shooting, bowling,

watching sci-fi movies, and owning Trans Am cars.

The music from his play list was always playing in his room, and he loved to Facetime with his family and hear his dog Cruz bark!



Jill Irwin

Jill Ann (Patterson) Irwin was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on December 28, 1940. Their family later relocated to Great Bend, Kansas. Upon graduation from Great Bend High in 1959, Jill moved to the Chicago area and worked for United Airlines - which is ironic because she had a fear of flying and heights! She met and married John Irwin in Des Plaines, Illinois.

They had two daughters and later divorced.

Jill was a lover of books, Diet

Coke, NFL Football, playing cards and rock-n-roll music.

She had the sweetest smile;

she was a kind soul

with a generous heart.



Ruth Justus

Ruth (Bateman) Justus was born on Feb. 18, 1929, in Chippewa Falls, WI. She married John Justus when

she was 17 years old, they had four

children. Ruth worked hard all of

her life. She was a waitress at

the El Rancho and many

other places such as Club 8.

Ruth always had a smile on

her face and was very

appreciative and thankful for

anything you did for her.

Her faith was important to

her, she was an active member of

St. John's Lutheran Church and she

attended every chapel service we had at our facility. She enjoyed

attending many activity programs in addition to chapel, she

enjoyed music, hair care, paraffin massage, coffee klatches with

friends, but her favorite was playing bingo.



Victoria Kinnear

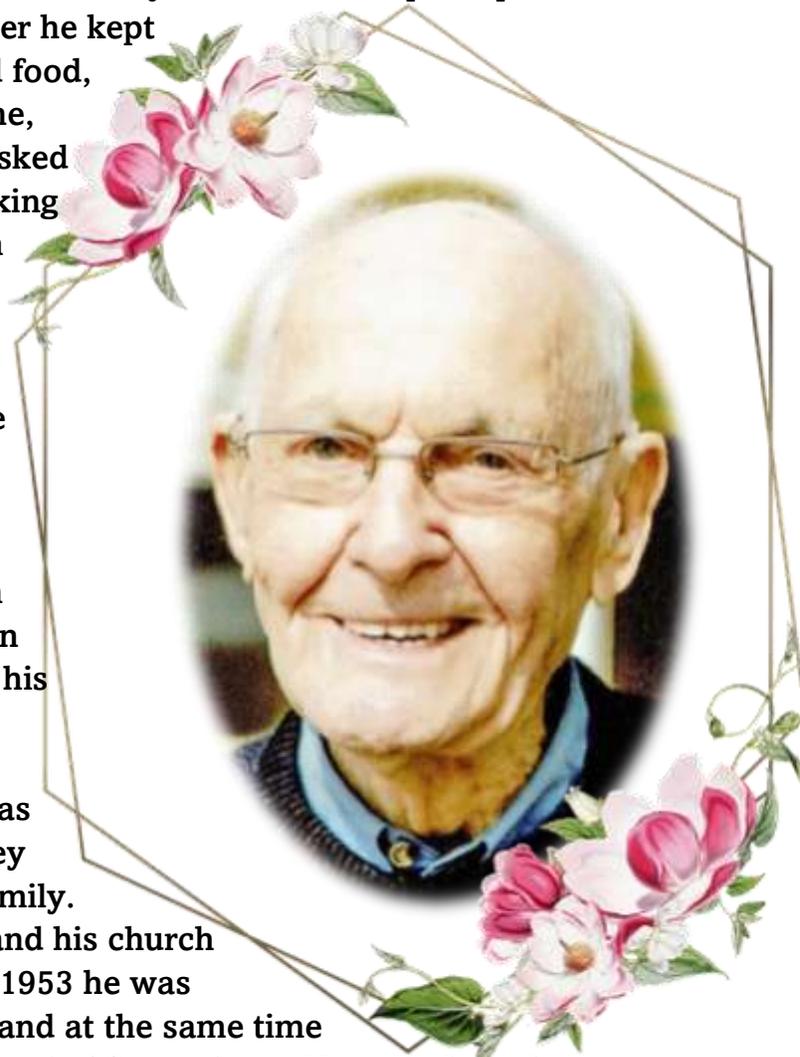
Vicky (Mansky) Kinnear was born on January 30, 1923, in Weyerhaeuser, WI. She married Earl Kinnear in 1942 in Alabama, they raised two sons and a daughter. Vicky also had ten grandchildren & 14 great grandchildren. She was a member of American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 425 in Bruce and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bruce. Everyone loved Vicky, she was a hoot! She called everyone "honey". She always kept us on our toes and laughing because we never knew what she was going to say!

Everyone who worked with Vicky had a funny story related to her. She took pride in her appearance, loved to wear jewelry and enjoyed compliments.



John Kmosena

John Kmosena lived his nearly 102 years on this earth by his own seven principles to live by, that he had written on a small piece of paper he kept in his wallet, they were: Faith in God, eat good food, exercise, don't smoke, don't be angry at anyone, have a good wife and learn to dance. When asked about them John said, "through life I was thinking about what is important in life and wrote them down". Everyone loved John, he was an amazing man who always had an optimistic outlook radiating on his face. Every morning, he enjoyed going for daily walks all around the campus visiting with everyone he saw. This brightened everyone's day, to see John and be greeted by his smile. John had a heart of gold; he gave great life advice and we loved to listen to his stories and hear his laugh. John was born on May 18, 1919 in Ladysmith. He lived all of his life in Rusk County and graduated from the Ladysmith High School in 1936. He married Shirley Hampton, their marriage of 65 years was blessed with two daughters and two sons. They enjoyed traveling, camping, and being with family. John was involved in serving the community and his church being on various boards and organizations. In 1953 he was elected as chairman of the town of Flambeau and at the same time attained a membership on the Rusk County Board of Supervisors. He was elected as chairman of the board in 1958 and served in that capacity until 1972. In 1962, he was instrumental in having Rusk County being chosen as a "Pilot County" to develop the first Senior Citizens Nutrition Program in the state of WI. In 1972, he was involved in starting the Judicare Program which provided legal assistance for low-income disadvantaged people in the state. In 1966, he was one of five incorporators in starting the Wisconsin Indianhead Community Agency program for the counties of Rusk, Sawyer, Barron, Washburn and Burnett. In 1967, he was approached by the Wisconsin Farmers Union to operate a program funded through the Dept. of Labor which provided part-time employment for low-income men and women. The program focused on community improvement projects and employed over 900 people in the state of Wisconsin. He retired from the position in 1995 after serving 29 years. The program is still in existence today and is known as the Experience Works Program. He served on the WITC Board for 25 years and the Jump River Electric Cooperative Board for 51 years, and he was the longest tenured director in the state of WI. John was a dedicated member of St. John's Lutheran Church, where he held various offices of the congregation being President, Elder and Trustee. John remained very close with his family of four children, 10 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren, enjoying weekly Zoom gatherings on Sunday afternoons.



Ellen Knott

Ellen Marie (Sleeth) Knott was born on November 6, 1942 in Milwaukee, WI.

She married Frank Knott in 1966 and raised a family of ten children. Ellen loved life. She enjoyed camping, fishing, traveling, puzzles and she loved the Packers. She enjoyed music and was Elvis Presley's number one fan! She lit up like a Christmas tree when she talked about Elvis, who she had seen in concert years ago, but by her description it seemed like yesterday! Ellen worked at Packerland Packing a great majority of her career, while raising her family. She

also worked as a CNA because she loved to help people and would

often help other residents, it

wasn't unusual to see her kneel down to tie

someone's shoe. Ellen was surrounded by the love of

her ten children, 38 grand children and 15 great-

grandchildren and her little dog, Snowball.



Nellie Kolar

Nellie Mary (Kozial) Kolar was born on September 7, 1931 in Sheldon.

She was one of ten children. Nellie married

Roger Kolar in 1953 and together they

raised four sons on the family farm.

They were blessed with 62 years of marriage. Nellie was a very social person; she had many friends and knew everyone. She was active in many community events, as well as attending many activity programs.

She loved her church, worked at the community fair, was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the York-

Kolar Legion Post, and held a number of

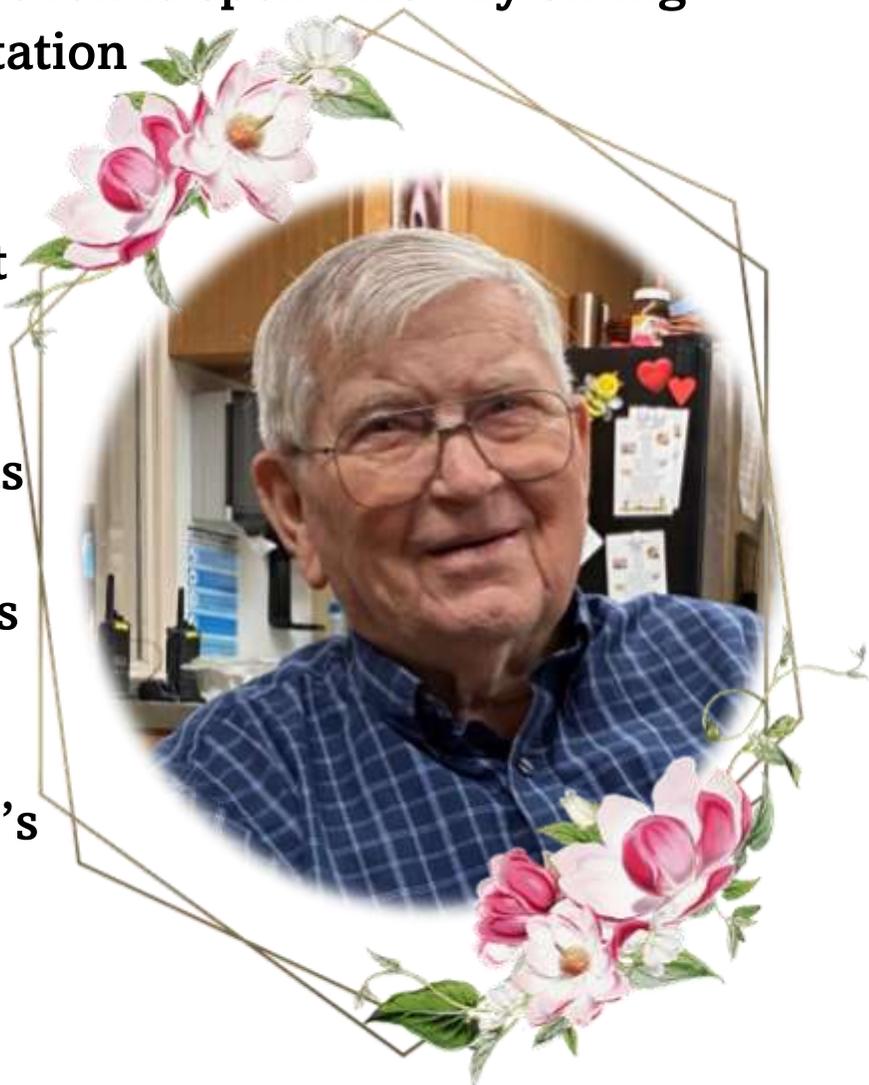
jobs off the farm as well as raising her boys. She

was an excellent cook and baker. At home, there was always a cookie available with coffee. She enjoyed playing card games with her grandchildren and nieces immensely, although they accused her of cheating because she always seemed to win! Nellie loved to play bingo, she listened to WLDY news every day and enjoyed reading the Ladysmith Newspaper. She attended every party and always found someone to visit with!



Duane Lahr

Duane Robert Lahr was born on May 3, 1924 in Stuartville, MN. He was a Navy veteran in WWII, serving from April 1944 until May 1946. He was a signalman on the USS Samuel L. Cobb and the USS Cape Charles. He married the love of his life Corella Runyan in 1951 and they raised a family of three sons. Duane was self-employed as an electrician, he was an avid bowler and loved hunting, fishing, gardening and antique collecting. He was a member of Bruce American Legion Post 268 and the Bruce Federated Church. Duane loved to spend his day sitting with Patty at the nurse's station "supervising", but mostly enjoyed eating all of the special snacks she brought him, especially chicken fingers and desserts. He had the greatest contagious smile you have ever seen! Duane always extended his hand and offered a hug as he greeted the many staff that walked past the nurse's station.



Rose Lawrence

Rose (Kroll) Lawrence was born on September 14, 1925 in Ladysmith, she was one of seven children. She married Marion Lawrence and they had three children. Rose will always be known as “the lady with the braids”. She had beautiful long hair which she always wore in pigtail braids. One day she took her braids out and came to bingo with her hair down and beautifully curled, everyone thought she was a new resident! She LOVED to play bingo and watch her soaps; nothing could prevent her from doing those two things even a doctor visit! Rose LOVED cats! She was surrounded by cat pictures. She enjoyed watching the birds on her birdfeeder, she was especially excited to see the cardinals. She had a huge collection of dolls, and loved to look at catalogues, she got at least one in the mail every day. She was a hard worker and loved to talk about her farm, cooking and gardening. Rose was proud of her family and had 11 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

