

Norma Martt

Norma Martt was born in Ladysmith on July 5, 1922. Norma loved to chat, chat and chat some more! She always had a funny story to tell and when she told it, she never held back her opinions. Norma lived in this area all of her life so she knew a lot of people. She began working at Ben Franklin while in school. Norma continued to work there for some years after marrying Robert Martt. Norma also worked at the Ladysmith Paper Mill and the IGA meat department, however the job she enjoyed most was bartending. Norma bartended at the Curve Inn Tavern in Conrath and that is where most of her stories came from. She also loved to reminisce about her days on the farm, growing up with her siblings, and raising her children.

Norma loved to walk, when she was able to, she made her rounds visiting with the staff and always had a story to share. Norma was everyone's favorite and she knew everyone by name. She most certainly ran the place and had everyone wrapped around her finger, we'd do anything for Norma, and she most definitely won our hearts.



Aldean Murphy



Aldean (Cherrier) Murphy was born on May 12, 1935, in Vermont. She married Jack Murphy in 1954 and they had three children, Jonathan, Jeffery and Jana. Jack and Aldean farmed in Hartland, Vermont and Canaan, New Hampshire. Aldean collected many pictures of New England covered bridges. In 1971, they moved to Exeland, where they owned and operated a dairy farm until 1993. Although her primary focus was working on their dairy farm, Aldean also enjoyed working at other various jobs such as at a restaurant, sewing factory and nursing homes. After retiring from farming, she continued to work at a nursing home in Rice Lake until 2013 and retired from working and focused on pursuing the interests that she

loved. Aldean was kind and gentle, yet she was a very independent woman who enjoyed horseback riding, motorcycling, pan fishing, gardening, canning, the outdoors, photography and traveling. While on many adventures, she traveled to every state except Alaska. She was an avid animal lover, and was a member of the Humane Society, her love for animals was unmatched. She especially loved her dogs that were her constant companions. Aldean was always busy. She loved tidying up her room, drawing, taking part in our baking club, exercising and especially loved working in our gardens, the dirtier her hands got, the better! Some days she was so tired, she'd sleep in until noon! Other days she was up at 6am ready to go! She loved to go shopping and always had a long list! Aldean loved living life to the fullest. She and Jack celebrated almost 67 years together.

Edna Nelson

Edna Irene (Hoage) Nelson was born on February 1st, 1922 in Barron, Wisconsin to Wilbur and Christine Hoage, she had a sister named Florence. Edna enjoyed sharing stories about her childhood, saying “we didn’t have a lot, but we were always happy and content because we had just what we needed.” Edna’s strong Christian faith led her life. She read her Bible daily, and her life centered on God’s Word. She chose her words carefully, always uplifting, being careful not to be judgmental or to hurt anyone’s feelings. Edna shared gracious words and Godly wisdom. She married Clinton Nelson on June 22, 1946 in Wheeler Wisconsin. The couple raised one son, Dennis. They were instrumental in the ministry of their church, Christ’s Community Church in Jump River where Edna served as Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Teacher, Mission Circle President and Program Leader. She also served as Chairman of the Ladysmith Christian Women’s Group.

Edna truly loved her occupation of being a teacher, she impacted hundreds of students through her years of teaching. A few of our volunteers had her as a teacher and they remembered how dedicated she was to her students, although she was tough and had high expectations, she was always fair and encouraged her students to do their best. Edna was 97 years old when she attended her last Flambeau Class Reunion. After retiring, Edna volunteered at the Flambeau school for eight years. She also served on the Rusk County Community Library Board and the Board of the Indianhead Federated Library System.

Edna was always a teacher and always a prayer warrior. We lost a great saint, but heaven acquired a very special angel.



Elsie Nelson

Elsie Lucille (Milner) Nelson was born on June 26, 1924, in Exeland, WI to Lawrence and Elsie Milner. She was raised by her maternal grandmother, Hilda Olson, following her mother's death. She spent her early years in Chicago and Amboy, Illinois. Elsie graduated from Bruce High School in 1942 and returned to Chicago to work, which is where she married Gilbert Nelson in 1944 in Chicago. Together Elsie and Gilbert returned to their farm on the Thornapple Road and celebrated 56 years together. She was a hardworking, devoted, loving wife, mother and grandmother. Elsie was employed for 29 years at the Gordon Ferguson sewing factory in Bruce. Following retirement Elsie and Gilbert enjoyed gardening, travel, playing cards and visiting with friends and relatives. Elsie was a prolific reader and enjoyed word search puzzles. She spent 99.9% of her day reading!

While living at Ladysmith Living Center, Elsie loved attending many activity programs, outings, and visits from family and friends.

She had many friends and would watch the hallway outside her room carefully, calling out to other residents and staff as they passed, offering a friendly greeting, she never missed a person!

Elsie was interested in the latest news and was a HUGE Cubs fan, even had the cap to prove it! She loved her family and looked forward to their visits, she was proud of her eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Dorothy Parker

Dorothy R. (Welcing) Parker was born on February 18, 1935 in Chicago, IL. She moved to this area in 1948 with her parents and her sister Rosemary. Dorothy graduated from Ladysmith High School and married Casimir Heiny, Sr in 1952. Together they raised four children on Heiny's Riverstead Farm which was established 1918. Casimir passed away in 1990. She married John Parker eight years later in 1998. John sadly passed away in 2012. Dorothy enjoyed gardening, canning, cooking, bowling, knitting and hollering at her kids! She worked many different jobs in the area, some of which were as a bookkeeper at Bill Stern's Chevrolet in Ladysmith, Hendricks Brothers in Bruce, Ladysmith Motors, State Farm Insurance in Ladysmith and for Dr. Lee Purdy in Ladysmith. She was also the treasurer for the Town of Thornapple for several years and was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Ladysmith. Dorothy had a quick sense of humor. She attended many special events at our facility, she loved speaking Polish and would make a point of visiting with our other Polish speaking residents. Her catholic faith was very important to her and she took every opportunity to receive communion.



Judy Purdy

Judy Ann Purdy grew up in Caledonia, Michigan on their family farm. She loved reminiscing about showing her beloved sheep, riding horse and memories about growing up with her brothers and sisters. Judy was a loving wife of 48 years to Dr. Lee Purdy. Dr. Purdy was devoted to Judy. He would make daily visits, often bringing her home cooked meals! She was a loving mother to her three daughters and a loving grandmother to her six grandchildren. She enjoyed spending time with her family, traveling, lighthouse adventures, Canadian fishing, music and trips to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She worked as an office manager at her husband's optometry practice for over 25 years in Ladysmith, where the community

was able to experience her joyous

laughter and witty sense of humor. Judy had a great smile, it was a pleasure to see how much she enjoyed music; as she smiled, laughed and clapped along! "This is fun!" she'd say in delight. She would surprise us with spontaneous funny responses in conversation that would make our day!



Eva Sanford



Eva Marie (Hoenselaar) Sanford was born on April 2, 1917 in Cheboygan, Michigan. At age seven, she moved to Ladysmith. Her first job was working for her brother at Economy Foods at the age of 14. Eva graduated from Ladysmith High School in 1935 and began working for Dr. Lundmark, who provided her with the skills and knowledge to become proficient in nursing, as well as how to be a lab tech and an X-ray tech. She married Russell Sanford and together they had seven children.

Eva was active in many activities such as Christian Mothers, running the candy booth at fish fries at OLS and volunteering at the hospital and nursing home. She enjoyed her flowers, family trips and loved to go camping. At 100 years old, Eva made her last camping trip. She celebrated her 103 birthday with us at Ladysmith Living Center, due to COVID lock down, staff invited the community and friends to send Eva cards and well wishes. Eva was thrilled to receive over 150 cards for her birthday! Eva was quiet and sweet, she loved visiting, and was so appreciative to have her hair done. Eva loved music, especially older hymns, which she learned as a child. She listened to CDs with headphones and even though we could not hear the music she was listening to; it was captivating to see her BIG smile and watch her keep time to the music with her hands and feet!

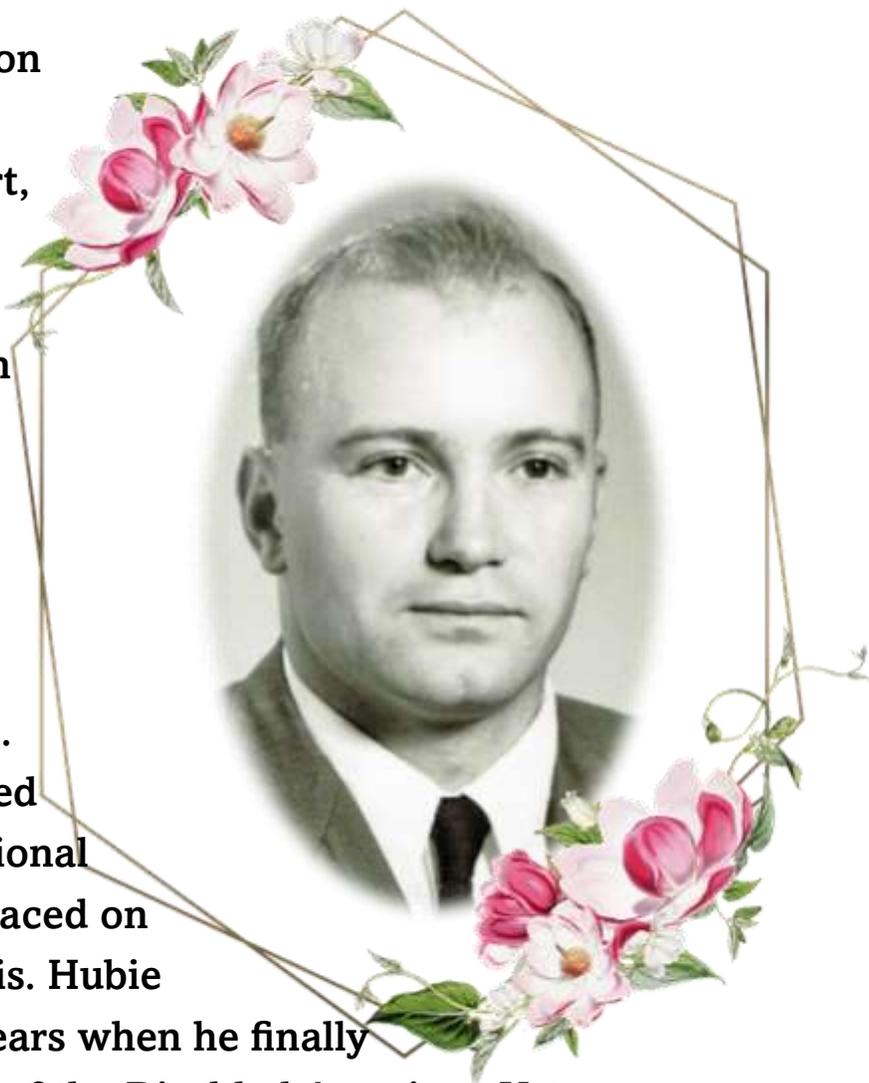
Sr. Geraldine Schulte

Sister (Sr.) Geraldine Matcella Schulte was born in Cumberland, WI on Nov. 2, 1925. She entered the Servants of Mary in 1940 and made her first profession of vows in 1942. She held a bachelor's degree from Viterbo College, La Crosse, with a major in biology and a minor in mathematics, and a master's degree in earth science from the University of Oklahoma. She studied geology at Temple University in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, and Medical Record Science at Harper College in Palatine Illinois. She spent 28 years teaching in grade schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey and West Virginia. She taught science at Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and physics and earth science at Mount Senario College here in Ladysmith. She ministered as a director of religious education in Mishawaka, Indiana. Sr. Geraldine served as treasurer and assistant finance manager for the Servants of Mary for seven years. She served on the board of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups and was Chair of District 8. She was a member of TRIAD, which brings together law enforcement personnel and concerned citizens to reduce the criminal victimization of the elderly. In her retirement years, Sr. Geraldine knitted mittens to distribute to needy children. She would begin knitting each year on July 1st and work into late October, making one mitten a day. Thanks to her, hundreds of children had warm hands while playing in the snow. Sr. Geri never complained. She was always content. She was also always busy spending her time working on jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, reading or watching TV. Sr. Geri often enjoyed doing a few of these activities at the same time. She enjoyed computer games, and was a whiz at solving any puzzle game she was engaged in. She was our "go to" person if we needed to know how to spell a word. When Ladysmith Living Center residents played Hangman in a group setting, she often knew the answer, but would keep it to herself so other residents could participate and enjoy the game.



Hubert Stevens

Hubert (Hubie) Stevens was born on Sept. 22, 1932 in Ladysmith. He married his high school sweetheart, Sally Ann Gapinski and together they raised five daughters. Hubie received his Bachelor of Science in teaching at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. He eventually earned his Master's Degree and taught general math, chemistry, physics, algebra, geometry and science for 35 years. Hubie's true passion was the United States Military. He joined the National Guard when he was 17 and was placed on Active Duty during the Berlin Crisis. Hubie remained in the Reserves for 36 years when he finally retired in 1992. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and Ladysmith Honor Guard. He was interested in WWII history and loved to read books pertaining to WWII. He enjoyed the outdoors and fixing electronics, he loved to tinker with any gadget he could get his hands on. He knew more element names and symbols from the Periodic Table of Elements than any of us did! He even tried to teach us the Pythagorean Theorem, but none of us really got it, much less had the ability to pronounce it! Hubie had a memorable smile!

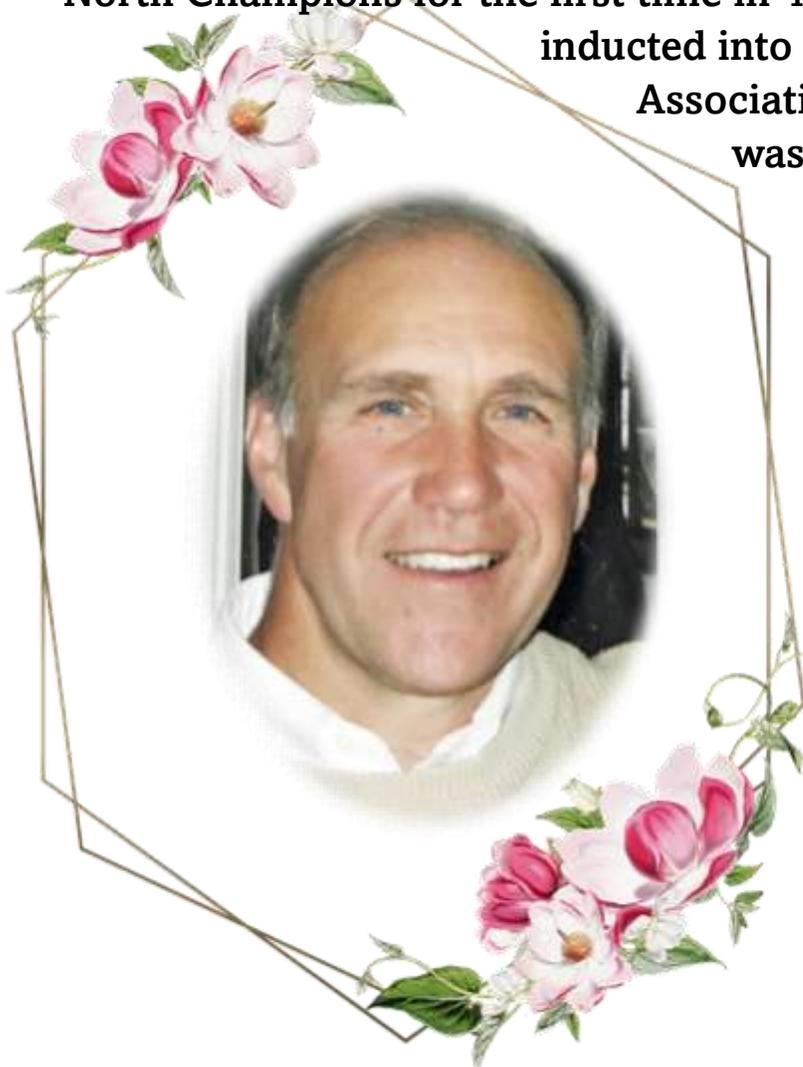


Bruce Stewart

Bruce Samuel Stewart was born in 1948 in Ladysmith. He was an athlete at Ladysmith High School, where he graduated in 1966, receiving honors in football, baseball & basketball. After high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. While working on his undergraduate & graduate degrees in physical education Bruce played two years of football and four years of baseball. He put his undergraduate degree to work by teaching and coaching at Spooner High School. After earning his graduate degree, he was offered the head coaching position for both football and baseball at Mount Scenario College. Bruce spent five years at “The Mount”, winning four upper Midwest collegiate championships. Coach Stewart finished his career at his alma mater, Ladysmith High School. The highlights of his 16 years of coaching were the 2001 and 2003 seasons when the Lumberjacks were undefeated Heart O’ North Champions for the first time in 40 years. Bruce was

inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2007. Bruce was truly a teacher at heart,

genuinely caring about each one of his students, stressing the importance of sportsmanship above all. He often reminisced in his later years about the thousands of students and athletes he taught and coached over his 35 year career. Bruce and his wife Kathie and their son Sam enjoyed their cottage on Potato Lake. Bruce loved fishing, deer hunting, trips to Canada, and winter vacations on the sunny beaches of Mexico and the Caribbean.



Jim Svoma

Jim Svoma, who was named after his father, was born in Cadott, WI on April 9, 1935. At a very young age his family

moved to Bruce, where Jim participated in

all school sports and he graduated in

1954. After graduation, Jim got a

job working for the ore boats on

the Great Lakes. In 1958, he was

drafted into the U.S. Army and

served two years in Germany. He

married Colleen Anderson and

they built their home in Apollonia

Wisconsin where they raised

four children and Jim was a

maintenance man at Pope and Talbot

paper mill. Jim was an avid hunter and

fisherman, he also enjoyed traveling, and going on cruises. He enjoyed

country music, watching ball games, especially football and the outdoors.

Jim loved his sweets, especially ice cream and the shakes his family

frequently brought him. He was a gentle man who had a loving and

devoted wife and family. It was such a pleasure to see them interact

together, they were always sharing stories and laughing! Jim truly loved a

family party!



Luella Vaverka

Luella (Perrine) Vaverka was born on March 1, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from Winter High School. Luella married Elmer Vaverka in 1951 and they operated the family farm until Elmer's death in 2007. Luella & Elmer raised two sons and two daughters. "Lu", was everyone's favorite lady! She was beautiful and her smile was captivating. When she smiled at you, she made you feel truly special and it warmed your heart. Her eyes would light up when she saw you, which drew you toward her to hold her hand and get a hug. Luella was always busy, she loved tidying up, folding laundry, washing dishes and caring for her babies. She absolutely LOVED when the children visited, and would reach out to them, welcoming them and did not want to say goodbye. Lu also loved animals, and was one of the few residents that petted the cows when we had our petting zoo in the courtyard. She enjoyed working on any type of crafts and absolutely loved music. Lu never missed a music program.



Mark Wallace

Mark Allen Wallace was the youngest of seven siblings born to Harold & Jean Wallace on November 17, 1958 in Ladysmith.

Mark was born with Down's Syndrome. He loved going to school, after school he went to Westlake workshop and loved being there too! He worked there for approximately 40 years. While at Westlake, he began to work out in the community, and enjoyed working at Dairy Queen for 15 years.

Mark loved going to church at Northland Bible Church. He also loved the Green Bay Packers, WWE wrestling, Kinship, bowling, camping, fishing and watching his nephew's ball games. He loved going places with family and friends. Mark lived at Lake House for almost two years, while there he loved to dance and sing his Native American songs. He was fondly called "The Packer Boy" at Lake House because of his rather large collection of Packer things. To his family, he was their special brother, and they couldn't have been prouder of him. What could be more fitting for their angel on earth to go to heaven on Christmas Eve.



Elaine Wegener

Elaine (Spreser) Wegener was born on November 14, 1927 in Ladysmith. Elaine was a cook and janitor for the Ladysmith public school system. She was a dedicated member of the Hope Lutheran Church. Elaine loved going out with her family and was proud to talk about them. Her four sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren were her world and she was proud to show off their pictures. Elaine was such a funny lady, we loved being around her! She loved to laugh and her laugh was

contagious. She was so fast on her feet!

We could hardly keep up with her and her walker! While living at LCC she enjoyed watching TV, playing cards and dice games, playing bingo, attending music programs, Hope Lutheran chapel services and visiting with her friends.



Florence Zawistowski

Florence (Ludvigsen) Zawistowski was born on July 22, 1920, in Glencoe, Illinois. Her parents emigrated from Denmark and finally settled in Sheldon, WI where Florence grew up on the family farm with four sisters and six brothers. She graduated from Ladysmith Normal School with a teaching degree and taught in a country school in Exeland.

Florence married Edward Zawistowski in 1941. The couple settled on their own farm in Conrath, where they raised their four children, Edward Jr., Daniel, Peggy and Joy. Upon retirement Florence and Ed moved to Holcombe where they spent many happy years together. While on the farm, Florence enjoyed raising chickens and ducks along with many dairy animals. She also enjoyed gardening and took great pride in her canned goods. She especially liked to pick berries and go fishing with her husband. Florence always welcomed visits from family and friends with a fresh cup of coffee and home-baked treats.

Florence had a strong Christian faith and enjoyed attending chapel services, spiritual music programs and playing bingo. She was eager to hear about the happenings in her home church through their weekly bulletins. She loved to Skype with her daughters and grand daughter Lois. Of her 12 grandchildren and many great grandchildren, Lois was definitely her favorite! Florence recently celebrated her 101st birthday with her family and friends.

