



Shirley Handrich

June 28, 1924 - January 23, 2019

*****Please note, visitation and services are still being held*****

There is NO cancelation, dress warm

Shirley Ann Handrich, age 94 of Berlin, passed away on January 23, 2019 at ThedaCare Hospital in Berlin. She was born June 28, 1924 in New London, Wisconsin to Esther (Gruetzmacher) and Fred Radtke. Shirley was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of New London and graduated from New London High School in 1942.

After graduation, Shirley accepted employment as a Secretary at The Aid Association for Lutherans Insurance Company in Appleton, Wisconsin, where she worked and lived for 5 years. In 1946, Shirley was on a weekend visit to see a girlfriend in Poy Sippi and was invited by a “good looking guy” to go to a bowling tournament. She jumped in the front seat right next to Wilfred “Bill” Handrich and that was just the beginning. Shirley and Bill dated for over a year and were then joined in holy marriage on August 23, 1947 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New London. After marriage, they made their home in Berlin, Wisconsin, where they enjoyed 71 beautiful years of marriage together, until the day she went to be with her Lord and Savior.

Shirley and Bill started the Handrich Insurance Agency in 1951 in Berlin, and they worked side by side for over 28 years, until Bill retired in 1978. She then continued in the insurance business, becoming a licensed agent herself. Over the years, Shirley also served as the cafeteria cook at St. Johns. She also

worked at Sager Glove Company, walked a Billboard paper route for many years, and was a playground aid at Clay Lamberton School, where she finally retired after 25 years of service at the age of 88!

Shirley was introduced to sports by Bill and quickly became an avid fan and supporter. She was the best “Manager’s Wife” during the 30 years that Handrich Insurance sponsored Men’s and Women’s Softball teams in Berlin. You could always find Shirley in the stands, rooting for her team (and maybe sometimes, giving the umpires “the business.”) She and Bill spent many years on the St. Johns Couples Bowling League, they also were founding members of St. Johns Sunday Evening Club (a social club for couples). She also sang soprano in St. Johns Church Choir. She supported her four children in all of their sports, band and social activities. She and Bill enjoyed entertaining in their home, hosting many parties over the years. Shirley loved to dance the jitterbug and particularly enjoyed the sounds of Big Band music. She and Bill were big supporters of their son Gary’s Band “The Poor Boys” and later “Boomba Boppers” where Steve was the best drummer around for many years. Shirley loved to travel – including many trips to Alaska to visit her two sons, Mark and Gary, to Michigan to visit Jodi and her family, as well as Steve in upper Michigan. She and Bill took many vacations, including a Cruise to the Carribean, a trip to Germany with her sister, Spring Training in Arizona, adventures through the State Parks in the Western States and many, many “club” trips with New York Life Insurance to Mackinac Island, Missouri and other states.

Shirley especially loved attending the annual Gruetzmacher Reunions where she got a chance to see her many cousins, aunts, uncles and their families. Shirley was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers and Wisconsin Badgers, attending many games throughout the years. Shirley and Bill are still season ticket holders of the Packers and never missed a game in 35 years! They were especially proud that their daughter, Jodi, was a Packer Sideliner. Their Packer Tailgates were the best around – and many friends and families enjoyed those delicious Old Fashioneds!

She was a wonderful mother, a kind and gentle soul, always attending every event, game, concert, recital or special event involving her four children and grandchildren. Shirley enjoyed seeing her extended family and cousins, rarely ever missing a party, graduation, wedding, or celebration opportunity. Shirley was a fighter of life. She stood for what she believed in, full of grace and faith, tenacious, strong, and honest. She always gave people strength and encouragement in life. Shirley is most aptly described as a dedicated servant to family, friends and beyond, who was committed to making others better and feeling good about themselves when she interacted with them. She was a sharp dresser and a classy woman that could do it all.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Wilfred (Bill) Handrich of Berlin, her sons Gary Handrich of Homer, AK, and Steven (Gail) Handrich of Oshkosh; one daughter, Jodi (Steve) Berry of Westland, MI, grandsons Tracy Handrich and Blake Berry; granddaughters Jennifer (Corey) Klettke and their children Jessica and Isabella, Stephanie Handrich and Jordan Berry. She is further survived by many dear friends and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Esther (Gruetzmacher) Radtke, sister Lois Sterna, son Mark F. "Flash" Handrich, daughter-in-law Pamela Handrich, and other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

Berlin, WI 54923

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home
116 S Adams Ave
Berlin, WI 54923
(920) 361-2050

Visitation

JAN 31. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
168 Mound Street
Berlin, WI 54923
<http://www.stjohnberlin.org>

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
168 Mound Street
Berlin, WI 54923
<http://www.stjohnberlin.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Shirley Handrich*



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - January 28, 2019 at 11:10 PM



“ *You all have been in my thoughts and prayers since I heard this special earth angel earned her wings. How fitting that when this sweet smiling soul moved on....the state went into record breaking deep freeze! Prayers for strength continue for you and much gratitude for the fun and smiles shared thru the years with you, Jodi, your brothers, and my second Mom and Dad! Love Lives On!*



Julie Tews - February 02, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ *Dear Gary, may you find peace in the many dear memories of your very sweet mother. It's never easy to say goodbye but your heart will forever hold her close. So to you, your father and the rest of the Handrich family my condolences and heartfelt sympathy. Fondly, Vicki (Viertel) Walker.*



Victoria Walker - January 30, 2019 at 10:18 PM

DW

“ *Bill and the entire family, we are so sorry for your loss. So many great memories over the years at the Gruetzmacher reunions. Shirley was such a wonderful and kind person, always smiling, she will be missed. We unfortunately won't be able to attend the service due to the cold weather. You and your family will be in our prayers. Dolores Westphal and family.*

Doug Westphal - January 30, 2019 at 01:27 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Shirley Handrich.*



January 29, 2019 at 11:29 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Shirley Handrich.*



January 29, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ 250 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - January 28, 2019 at 09:57 PM

TC

“ *Tony & Donna Ciaramitaro purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Shirley Handrich.*



Tony & Donna Ciaramitaro - January 28, 2019 at 11:56 AM

NR

“ *Your mother was a wonderful person, Gary. I have memories of your parents and mine playing cards with others from St. John's. She was always very kind to the Reuther family. Blessings to you and your family as you mourn her passing. She is now with God in Heaven and all those whom she loved.*

Most sincerely,

Nancy (Reuther) Riebau

Nancy Riebau - January 27, 2019 at 07:22 PM

CM

“ Bill and the entire Handrich family, Craig and Vivian send our christian sympathy to you all. We will always have memories of Shirley's smile. All the birthdays and anniversaries we were able to share with her and the family. May our Lord comfort you in this time of loss. However, you know that she is celebrating with her Lord. Shirley's christian faith is what gives you this assurance of heaven.

Craig & vivian Mittelstaedt - January 27, 2019 at 04:57 PM

DT

“ Steve & Gail. My condolences in the loss of your Mother & Mother In Law. As some people journey through life,they leave footprints-of kindness and love,courage and compassion, joy and faith. Even when they're gone,the trail they've left behind continues to inspire us.Praying God will comfort and care for both of you while you celebrate the legacy that lives on. With Sympathy. God Bless you both and your Family.
Diane Thompson Family.

Diane Thompson - January 27, 2019 at 04:20 PM

TJ

“ The Sterna's- Rick, Lyn, Jim, Bill, Justin & Jamie purchased the Touching Tribute Spray for the family of Shirley Handrich.



The Sterna's- Rick, Lyn, Jim, Bill, Justin & Jamie - January 27, 2019 at 12:35 PM

MK

“ *It was always a pleasure to visit with Shirley when I had the opportunity to be in WI. I remember weddings and family events when I was younger and she and Bill would always pay attention to me although they were about 25 years older than I was! We send our condolences to your family and rejoice that Shirley is with her Lord and Savior.*
Marlene and Mel Kam

Marlene Kam - January 27, 2019 at 01:32 AM

SG

“ *Shirley's Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Shirley Handrich.*



Shirley's Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren - January 26, 2019 at 11:16 PM

CO

“ *Nothing will ever compare to the Fun I had at your house in Berlin for the Trivia Contests. All the Food and Drink that was provided by Shirley was amazing . I don't think she stopped all night long. If I knew how to make one . I would have an Old Fashioned right now. You all have been a very important part of my life. Love Charlie.*

charles outhouse - January 26, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ Love , Charlie O purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Shirley Handrich.



Love , Charlie O - January 26, 2019 at 04:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Handrich.



January 25, 2019 at 06:32 PM