



Ann Horner Leestma

July 5, 1928 - December 2, 2018

Ann Horner Leestma died on Sunday, December 2, 2018. She was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on July 5, 1928, to Viola Nast Richter and Leo Richter. She graduated from Goodrich High School and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, majoring in education. She taught in the Fond du Lac school district at Rosenow and Elizabeth Waters schools for a few years before marriage and children. She taught in the North Fond du Lac school district, first in a one room schoolhouse in Van Dyne, and then at the Friendship Learning Center until her retirement after 38 years in teaching.

She married Harry Horner on June 21, 1952. They had 2 boys, Richard and Thomas, both of whom died of Wiscott-Aldrich Syndrome before they were 3 years old. Ann and Harry could not imagine their lives without children, so they adopted two. They raised Barbara and Jim in Fond du Lac, while living on the west shore of Lake Winnebago. Harry developed Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in 1988, and died in 1990.

Ann met Arnold Leestma, and they married on October 17, 1992. In 26 years, they traveled the world, tended a vineyard that Harry started in 1978 (all proceeds to the ALS Association), volunteered at the Hospice Home of Hope, were active in the First Presbyterian Church, gardened, and shared produce and dahlias with friends and strangers. Family is quite sure that Ann delivered more flowers than any other non-florist in the world.

Ann is survived by her husband Arnold Leestma of Fond du Lac, her sister, Claire Helen Ehernberger of Lincoln, Nebraska, her children Barbara Horner-Ibler (John) and Jim Banker-Horner (Lori), grandchildren David and Michael Horner-Ibler, Dan Banker, Julia and Bill Pitroski, and nieces Heidi Hamilton (Dan) and Marsha Polys (Michael). She is also survived by step-children Donna Arimura (Brian) and Bruce Leestma (Cindy), and grandchildren Bethany and Breeanna, Nick and Cassie, Jamie, Tommy, AJ and Jennifer. She is preceded in death by her two sons, her first husband, and a step-son, Tom Leestma (Laurie Christie).

Services will be held on Saturday, December 15, at the First Presbyterian Church in Fond du Lac. Visitation will be held from 1-3 pm, the service at 3 pm, and an Ice Cream Social immediately following.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
1225 Fourth Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Service

DEC 15. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
1225 Fourth Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Marsha, Michael, Christopher, Kat, Nathaniel Steph purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Ann Horner Leestma.*



Marsha, Michael, Christopher, Kat, Nathaniel Steph -
December 14, 2018 at 10:17 AM



“ *loved her!!! she was the best kindergarten teacher ever...I remember going to her house when I was little to see the train set down in the basement...and when I grew up I would see her and she would still say hi to me...like I never left..she is a great teacher, most kindest person I ever met, very respectable, she will be missed rest in peace Mrs Horner!*

Jennifer Berger - December 13, 2018 at 09:01 AM

NW

“ I will always remember Ann as the wonderful teacher she was. My two oldest children had her as a kindergarten teacher in Van Dyne. I remember them making applesauce and caring for baby chickens and making teepees and feathered headdresses. She remembered both children when they graduated high school with something they made when they were in her class. She was always happy to see you and had all the time in the world to talk to you. My children all remember her with fond memories of a wonderful beginning to their school years. Her legacy remains with all the students she gave so much too.

To her family please accepts our thoughts and prayers.

Howard and Nancy Wood

Nancy Wood - December 12, 2018 at 11:18 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ann Horner Leestma.



December 12, 2018 at 12:26 AM

JZ

“ I feel like Ann has been in my life forever, she was a teacher in the NFDL school system when my children were there. Her style of teaching was steps ahead. She was so understanding and loving, I'm sure any child that remembers having her, has very fond memories.

Then later we were volunteers at Hospice Hope, it seemed she was always making cookies. Then often she and her "Arnold" would dance for the people enjoying a meal. It was a beautiful sight to see. For those of you who may remember her wild flowers that would open in the evening. She would have many people sitting in her house watching them open, what a sight!.

She was a beautiful lady in so many ways and now she can rest in God's Hands.

Thank You Ann

Joanne Zimmerman

Joanne Zimmerman - December 07, 2018 at 11:27 AM



Fond memories of my kindergarten teacher in Van Dyne. Naps under the oak tree, art class on the left side of the room, music class on the right...always wanting to play Mrs. Horner when my friends and I played "school", and getting to wear the red coat, trick-or-treating at her house...and most cherished of all...the letter from her when I graduated high school with a piece of my work...printing of the alphabet in upper and lower case. The first of several teachers that led me to wanting to become a teacher. What a wonderful lady.

Cathy Kaiser Winters
Van Dyne School class of 1970.

Cathi Winters - December 08, 2018 at 11:07 AM

TD

“ It was always such a joy to see you and Ann together. I always questioned true unconditional love, until I was able the witness the two of you together. Not only were you lucky enough to find that once, but twice. I hope you find comfort in all the wonderful memories you were able to make and the dances you were able to share. Please know that you are in our thoughts during this time, as always, and have our deepest sympathy. "If there ever comes a day when we cannot be together, keep me in your heart. There I will stay, forever".

Lots of love,

The Office of Kathleen Doyle-Kelly DDS

The Office of Kathleen Doyle-Kelly DDS - December 06, 2018 at 01:12 PM

MM

“ ANNE WAS MY YOUNGEST SONS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT THE VAN DYNE SCHOOL OVER THE VIADUC WHEN SHE TAUGHT SCHOOL. ALSO THE GRAPES AT HER VINEYARD. WONDERFUL KIND PERSON. TY ANNE RIP. MARY MARLOWE



MARY MARLOWE - December 05, 2018 at 07:52 AM

JL

“ Blessed be the memory of Ann Leestma. She was a caring, loving, generous servant of her Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Her radiant love of all children, and her love for her soul mate Arnold Leestma, family, & friends will long be remembered.

Jerry Lydeen

Jerald Lydeen - December 04, 2018 at 09:58 PM