



## Doris M. Henke

October 4, 1924 - July 1, 2009

Doris Henke of Fond du Lac passed away on June 26, 2009. She was 84 years young. On her last days, she still managed to touch the hearts of those who cared for her. The doctors and nurses often remarked on her strength, determination, and her relentless ability to smile. Doris was born on October 4, 1924, the daughter of the late William and Helen Engel. On July 22, 1950, Doris married Leo "Hans" Henke, Sr., and together raised three children, Leo, Jr., Jewel, and Brenda. Doris provided daycare for children in Oakfield and became a "second Mom" to many. It was common for many of them to stay connected with Doris through visits, phone calls, or invitations to celebrate a special day. Doris had many passions. She loved to make dessert bars and cookies; she loved giving them to neighbors and friends even more. She loved to walk and ride her exercise bike. The miles walked on the streets in the neighborhood were countless; the miles on her exercise bike were well over 20,000. Doris also loved spending time with her close friends and sister, Rosie, eating out, shopping and playing cards. If Doris were not involved with any of these passions, odds would have it that she would be reading another book. Doris is survived by her two loving daughters, Jewel Henke of Platteville and Brenda (Steve) Burbach of Plains, MT; a sister, Rosemary Zehren of Fond du Lac; grandchildren: Bronson Burbach, Josh (Danielle) Burbach, Kyle Burbach, Stacy (Scott) Zacharias, Lori Henke, Jim Pionke and Cory (Kelly) Henke; 10 great- grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; special friends: Elaine Schry, Nancy Gage and Evelyn Markhardt; and good neighbors who frequently gave a helping hand, especially Dave Steffens and Dale Nehls. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hans; her son, Leo, Jr.; three sisters: Flora, Angie and Theresa; two brothers: Harold and Elmer; and two great- grandchildren. The visitation will be from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, at Church of Peace United Church of Christ, 158 S. Military Road, Fond du Lac. The funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Church of Peace United Church of Christ. Burial will be in Ledgeview Memorial Park at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

# Tribute Wall

K(

“ I will miss Doris. She was a very sweet lady. I am glad when we made a stop to her place with my mom last year with Todd and Sam, so they got to meet her, too. My most vivid memory is learning to use the potty at her house - I still use that skill today:). There was also a time when after school one day I talked my friend Tina into coming over to Doris's. And boy were the police looking for her because, of course, she never told her mom or anything - I think we were in kindergarten. I am glad she is with Hans now, and also reunited with Junior. Our prayers go out to her family.

Kathy Mogensen (Markhardt) - July 01, 2009 at 05:10 PM

KW

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Kathy Mogensen (Markhardt) of Appleton, WI - July 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Doris Henke was a wonderful caregiver who I was fortunate enough to have had. She was my 'sitter' from roughly 1973-1979. Some memories include: letting her know to get the crying towel out when we would miss a day in her care, and hanging that towel up to dry with our return. She taught us how to play SPUD, and "Mother May I?" Sometimes she let two kids get milk, or bread from the grocery store about four blocks away. Nap time started right after she washed her kitchen floor. (a daily thing.) If you were a good kid (or thought to be one) you could nap in the same room she watched her soap opera, "All My Children" in. I know, I watched it, too. In the afternoon, while waiting for our parents to pick us up outside, we would get a "rationed snack". Sometimes it was two crackers, sometimes it was four. In short, Doris created structure for us. The affection she showed us in our childhood has made us all better people. The Oakfield community was blessed to have her. She was fun. She was loving. She gave out marigold seeds to us. She gave out some good recipes, too. She lived close to school. And she practically shared a backyard to my first 'bestest' friend. She also made good Hamburger Helper. She will be missed on Earth, but welcomed in Heaven by her Hans. Sympathies go out to her family and those who knew her.

Sue (Markhardt) Kamphuis - June 30, 2009 at 10:26 PM

AM

“ To the family of Doris, I will miss her smile and our talks when she was out walking to Rosie's house. She was a wonderful woman and she was loved very much. Please accept my deepest condolences on her passing.

AI Mauch - June 29, 2009 at 06:06 PM

RB

“ My career has located me in several towns and cities. While the years I spent in Oakfield were not the longest I met some of the nicest people there and Doris and Hans were two of the greatest. We were next door neighbors for a while, Doris was not only a great friend but an excellent role model and caretaker for my daughter.

The path we take through this life is measured not in fortunes, in accomplishments or in fame, but in the people we meet. I was honored to have met Doris.

Russ Barnes - June 29, 2009 at 03:48 PM

RT

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Russ Barnes of Christiana, TN - June 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AL

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AI Mauch of Fond du Lac - June 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We are a neighbor of Doris & her waves & smiles everyday as she walked by will be missed. The family will be in our thoughts & paryers durning this difficult time.

The Christ Family - June 28, 2009 at 07:54 PM

EM

“ Thursday morning I took Doris a book, bookmark and her prayer card which she asked me to bring her. We talked a little and I left when a man with a binder in his arms came in (I assumed a doctor). When I phoned her before 1:00 that afternoon she said she was tired and hadn't slept much yet, so we didn't talk then. She well be missed.

Evelyn Markhardt - June 28, 2009 at 06:04 PM

EW

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Evelyn Markhardt of Fond du Lac, Wi - June 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I am one of the children lucky enough to have Doris as a second mother. Because of her, I made my first best friend, love tomato soup with crackers, and am the mother I am. Fortunately, we found each other again a few years ago-with the help of that friend, and I got to share my husband and son with her. I will miss her but the world, especially mine, is a better place because she was a part of it.

Kim Barnes - June 27, 2009 at 08:00 PM

JR

“ I am very sorry to hear of your loss. My thought and prayers are with all of you during this hard time. It will take time to heal, but never forget the memories! I will not forget her smile--she was always giving big smiles to everyone. Hugs Julie Rist-Pionke

Julie Rist-Pionke - June 27, 2009 at 05:37 PM

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Kim Barnes of Woodbury, Minnesota - June 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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**Julie Rist-Pionke of Fond du Lac, WI** - June 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM