



## Irene B. Willett

February 10, 1925 - July 8, 2025

Irene B. (Benzel) Willett, 100, of Fond du Lac, died on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. She was the wife of Frederick “Ted” Willett, and lived in the Milwaukee area for 46 years. Irene moved back to Fond du Lac, in 2000, to be with her family. She is survived by her niece Sue Malo (Ralph), Pat Hopp (Milford), Debbie Conger (Larry); her nephew Jerry Benzel (Bonnie); her stepsons: Tom Willett and Theodore Willett. Irene is further survived by many great nieces and nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Many Fridays’ Irene would spend with her friend Rory Lowe and “the bowling buddies.”

Irene was preceded in death by her husband Ted, her parents Louis H. and Edna L. (Giese) Benzel, her brother Wilmer Benzel (Betty), her sister Bernice Gilgenbach (Raymond), her daughters-in-law: Ruth Willett and Ann Willett; grandson Thomas Willett, her niece Darlene Plonsky (Gerald); her great nephews and nieces: Randy Schwebke, Ralphie Malo, Mark Plonsky (Kim), Buddy Binsfeld, Nikki Binsfeld and Brianna Binsfeld. She was also preceded in death by her beloved dog, Dorie.

Irene was an avid bowler all her life. She bowled in 43 National Bowling Tournaments and 45 State Bowling Tournaments. She enjoyed traveling, gambling at casinos, and spending time with her family. She lived to celebrate her 100th birthday because of her favorite drink of Brandy and water, which kept her young at heart. Irene’s final years were spent at Harbor Haven, where they enjoyed her wit and good disposition. She liked playing cards and bingo, and going on bike shuttles around Fond du Lac on nice days.

Irene will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Thank you to Harbor Haven for the great care they provided for her.

VISITATION: The family will greet friends and relatives from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 East Division Street, Fond du Lac.

SERVICE: Memorial services will be held at 12:30 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory, with Chaplain Evan Stark officiating. Inurnment to follow at Ledgeview Memorial Park. Cremation has taken place.

# Cemetery Details

## Ledgeview Memorial Park

Fond du Lac, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 17. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory  
31 E. Division Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
(920) 921-4420  
info@kurkifuneralchapel.com  
<https://kurkifuneralchapel.com>

## Service

JUL 17. 12:30 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

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“ I bowled on a ladies team with Irene for many years in Milwaukee and went to many state bowling tournaments with her and our team. Her friend Mary Westphal was her friend and my mother-in-law. I last saw her at my mother-in-law's funeral in 1999. She was the nicest person you could ever meet. Lots of fond memories. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends.



*Laura Olson-Westphal*

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**Laura Olson-Westphal** - November 06, 2025 at 04:43 PM