



Sharleen K. (Launders) Birschbach

June 15, 1936 - April 5, 2026

Sharleen K. (Launders) Birschbach, 89, of Fond du Lac and formerly of Lamartine, passed away on Easter Sunday April 5, 2026, at Hospice Home of Hope.

She was born in Fond du Lac on June 15, 1936, to E. Harold and Elza (Scherer) Ziehm. She graduated in 1954 from Winnebago Lutheran Academy. On December 7, 1957, she married Robert D. Launders. He preceded her in death on June 28, 1985. On August 16, 2003, she married Kenneth E. "Smokey" Birschbach. He preceded her in death on January 9, 2011.

Sharleen retired from Grande Cheese Company in 2003. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church and also an honorary member of the Lamartine Firemen's Auxiliary. She loved flowers, gardening, traveling and cooking.

She is survived by her children: David Launders, Susan Launders of Wheaton, IL, Donald Launders (Cheri Lietz) of Lamartine, and Sandra Launders (Ken Spielvogel) of Lamartine. She is also survived by her sister Sherry Schmutzler of Beaver Dam, and her three nieces: Michelle Bores of Beaver Dam, Wendy (Bob) Pierce of Colorado, and Sara (Dan) Weitzenkamp of Burnett. She is further survived by her sister-in-law Sharon Unferth of Fond du Lac, and many other friends and relatives.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her in-laws Howard and Hilda Launders, her two husbands, her brother-in-law Woodrow Schmutzler.

VISITATION: The family will greet friends and relatives from 9:30 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory 31 East

Division Street Fond du Lac.

SERVICES: Funeral Services will be held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory. Burial to follow at Rienzi Cemetery.

The family would like to thank SSM St. Agnes 5 West, St. Francis Home, and Hospice Home of Hope for their care and support.

(Mom-you held me when I took my first breath and I held you as you took your last breath---our bond will never end. Sandy)

Cemetery Details

Rienzi Cemetery

N6101 Co Rd K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
(920) 922-4543

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

APR 18. 11:30 AM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Myrna S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Sharleen K. (Launders) Birschbach.*



Myrna S. - April 14 at 03:39 PM

SF

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I'm sure she's in heaven. She'll always be with you in spirit.*



Sue Freund. - April 10 at 12:34 PM

SW

“ *I can't even begin to choose a favorite memory to share as there are so many! She was the BEST godmother and aunt, always smiling, laughing and feeding us! Last week I was just reminiscing of an Easter where she had an Easter egg hunt just for me at her house, eggs filled with coins, chocolates and hidden all over her house. Every year Christmas was so special as we would all be together, dressed up, a whole amazing meal with China and more food than you can even imagine. We'd open presents in the evening (after finding the Christmas pickle) and laugh and tell stories all night. I will miss her love for ice cream, cocktails and her huge heart. Love you Sharleen!*

Sara Weitzenkamp - April 07 at 05:55 PM