



Sydney M. Henke

June 26, 1941 - March 20, 2024

Sydney M. Henke, 82, of Oakfield, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Touchstone Assisted Living in North Fond du Lac, where she resided. Sydney suffered with dementia for the last four years of her life. She was born June 26, 1941, in Milwaukee, the daughter of Leslie and Margaret Bird Cowles. She was a graduate of Oakfield High School, Class of 1959, and worked briefly at Galloway West. On February 13, 1960, she married Thomas F. Henke, the love of her life and high school sweetheart. On October 19, 1960, she joined her husband, serving in the United States Army at Hanau, Germany and lived there with him for 7 months before returning home to have their first-born child in September 1961.

During Sydney's life she did many things, in grade school started piano lessons, in high school took organ and voice lessons. She was active in the high school choir and played the clarinet in the band. She was a member of the Busy Oaks 4-H Club and later a foods leader, was a Cub Scout Den Mother and gave piano lessons for a brief time. She was an active member of the Oakfield United Methodist church, where she taught Sunday school and at one time was the Sunday school Superintendent. She sang in the church choir, was church organist for several years and choir director. Sydney also played and sang for many weddings and funerals. Music has always been a meaningful part of her life, especially singing. She was the first President of the Oakfield Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. In 1996, she and her

husband became members of Trinity Methodist Church in Lomira.

In her spare time, Sydney enjoyed doing word search puzzles, sending greeting cards, whether it was for birthdays, anniversaries or holidays to church family and friends. She loved to bake and decorate Christmas cookies with her daughters and sister Nancy Leonhardt. She especially liked to travel and visit the casinos on occasion, with their dear friends Jim and Kay Holz, and never passed up the chance to visit their wonderful friends in Michigan, Dick and Sundae Faes. You could also find Sydney shopping for anything that “sparkled” whether it was for something to wear or decorating for the seasons, but spending time with her family was her greatest joy.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years Thomas Henke, their children: William (Patti) Henke, James (Joyce) Henke, Wendy (Charles) Hounsell, Julie (Richard) Franke, Michael (Stephanie) Henke; her grandchildren: Kyle (Ashley) Henke, Ryan Franke, Samuel Hounsell, Tyler (Alyssa) Franke; Great granddaughter Luci Rose Henke and baby Franke due in October; step grandchildren: Chad (Sarah) Hounsell, Brad Hounsell, Todd Rieder, Tami (Ryan) Hale, Tyler (Andrea) Rieder; step great grandchildren: Aaliyah (fiancé Jacob) Hounsell, Hunter Hounsell, Mason Hounsell, Haiden Rieder, Brock Rieder, Iven Rieder, Maren Hale, Logan Hale; one sister-in-law Carol Henke, Special sister Nancy Leonhardt and other nieces, nephews, cousins and godchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents Leslie and Margaret Cowles Sr., brother Leslie Cowles Jr, mother and father-in-law Paul and Viola Henke, brother-in-law Donald (Boze) Henke, Special friend Katherine (Kay) Holz and many other relatives.

UPDATE VISITATION: The family will greet friends and relatives from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Trinity Methodist Church, 300 Church Street, Lomira, WI.

UPDATE SERVICE: Funeral Services will be held at 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Trinity Methodist Church, with Pastor William Jewson

officiating. Entombment will take place at Ledgeview Memorial Park in Fond du Lac, on Monday, April 8, 2024, for the immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Sydney's name may be directed to the Oakfield Fire Dept. Emergency Medical Responders (EMS).

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the wonderful staff at Touchstone Assisted Living for the loving care they gave to Sydney.

Cemetery Details

Shrine of Rest Mausoleum

N6250 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Methodist Church
300 Church St.
Lomira, WI 53048
<https://www.trinitylomira.org/>

Funeral Service

APR 6. 4:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Methodist Church
300 Church St.
Lomira, WI 53048
<https://www.trinitylomira.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sydney M. Henke.*



April 02, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ *Our Family has such special memories of Tom and Syd. Tommy and my Father (Dick Faes) were in the Army and served in Germany together. We always loved having the Henke Family visit us in Michigan.*

Of course, I have such fond memories of our family visits to Oakfield, Wisconsin too!

Syd, was the most kindest, always thought of her as a special lady. She always made our family feel so welcome and shared her community activities with us during the visits. I will always remember my memories of the Henke Family and keep them close to my heart.

Prayers and thoughts to y'all always!

Roxann Aiken (Faes)

Roxann Aiken (Faes) - March 26, 2024 at 12:22 PM