

Bernice Ann Baird

September 6, 1927 - September 5, 2016

Bernice Ann Baird passed away in Reno, NV on September 5, 2016 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. She was one day shy of her 89th birthday.

Bernice (Bunny) was born September 6, 1927 in a log cabin on her family farm in Fayette County, in Northeast Iowa. Her parents were Michael and Olga (Gilbertson) Blockhus. Bernice was proud of her Norwegian heritage and grew up speaking English and Norwegian. Bernice graduated from Elgin High School at age 16. She enjoyed telling others that she walked two miles to and from school for 12 years, rain or shine! She earned an AA Teaching Credential from Lutheran College in Decorah, Iowa in 1946. After teaching elementary school in Decorah and McGregor, Iowa Bernice moved to Greeley, CO to attend Colorado State College and earned her BA degree in Education in 1952. She then taught elementary school in Boulder, CO. While attending Colorado State Bernice met the love of her life Gerald (Jerry) Lee Baird, while attending a Lutheran Student Association meeting. On June 21, 1953 Bernice and Jerry were married at East Clermont Lutheran Church in Iowa.

Jerry joined the Air Force during the Korean War and he and Bernice moved to the Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, NV. When Jerry was transferred overseas to the Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, Bernice and their first child (Jim) went back to Iowa to live on the family farm. After Jerry was honorably discharged from the Air Force he and Bernice set out to find a place to settle down and raise a family. After spending time in Portland, OR (a bit too foggy and rainy), and San Diego, CA (a bit too big), they settled in Ventura, CA (just right!). Jerry and Bernice spent 50 years in Ventura until health issues necessitated they move closer to family (Sue) in Reno, Nevada. While raising their children in Ventura, Jerry taught elementary school and Bernice worked as a secretary for Trinity Lutheran Church. Bernice also devoted time to helping seniors, volunteering at the food pantry, and supporting charitable endeavors aimed at assisting people in need. Bernice was happiest when spending time with family, friends, and helping others.



Gerald Baird

February 17, 1931 - August 1, 2017

Gerald Baird passed away in Reno, NV August 1, 2017. Gerald (Jerry) was born in Greeley, Colorado February 17, 1931. His parents were Arthur and Rachel Baird (Baker). In 1952 Jerry earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Colorado State College in Greeley (now the University of Northern Colorado).



While attending College Jerry met the love of his life, Bernice Ann Blockhus, at a Lutheran Student Association meeting. On June 21, 1953 Jerry and Bernice were married at East Clermont Lutheran Church in Iowa, which was Bernice's home church.

Jerry enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War and he and Bernice moved to the Nellis Air Force base in Las Vegas, NV. When Jerry transferred overseas to the Clark Air Force base in the Philippines, Bernice and their first child (Jim) went to Iowa to live on Bernice's family farm. After Jerry was honorably discharged from the Air Force, he and Bernice returned to Greeley where he earned his Master of Arts degree in Education in 1957. In Greeley, their second child (Janet) was born in the same hospital where Jerry had been born.

The family set out to find a place to settle down. After spending time in Portland, OR, (a bit too foggy and rainy) where their third child (Susan) was born, and San Diego, CA (a bit too crowded), they settled in Ventura, CA (just right)! Jerry and Bernice spent 50 years in Ventura until health issues necessitated they move closer to family (daughter Susan) in Reno, NV.

The Lutheran Church played a central role in Jerry's life. Trinity Lutheran Church in Ventura, CA, and the Springs Lutheran Church in Spanish Springs, NV all provided him (and Bernice) with joy, comfort, companionship, and shared values for serving his community while serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jerry is survived by his son Jim Baird (Jeanne) Hydesville, CA, his daughter Susan Abeloe (Dave) Reno, NV, two grandchildren Ryan Abeloe (Jennifer), Rachel Abeloe, and three great grandchildren: Talan, Grace, and Santiago. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Bernice, and his daughter Janet Baird.