



## Bernice C. VanKouwenberg

October 2, 1919 - April 2, 2011

Bernice C. VanKouwenberg of North Fort Myers, Florida, age 91, passed away on April 2, 2011 in Fort Collins, Colorado. Bernice was born October 2, 1919 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Herman and Ida Luedtke. She married Milton Kloth of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1940. They were divorced. In 1950 she married Arthur Altenburg of DeForest, Wisconsin. They farmed and worked hard together. Bernice had three children when she married Art ? Judith, Sandra and James. She and Art had three children together, William Willie, Holly and Marianne. Arthur passed away in 1969. Bernice worked as a waitress, in a floral/greenhouse and then as head of Central Records Department of American Breeders Services ABS Global in DeForest, Wisconsin until her retirement. She moved to Cape Coral/Ft Myers, Florida area with her sister, Ruth and brother-in-law, Art. Bernice met her husband, Robert Rob VanKouwenberg in Florida. They were married in 1985. For many years, they spent summers in Upstate New York and winters in Florida. Family was very important to Bernice. Her children and their families visited Florida regularly and Bernice made many trips to their homes all over the United States. One of Bernice's hobbies was crocheting and she was always working on an afghan or another crochet project. She made and gave away hundreds of afghan quilts or other items, including hot pads and Christmas tree ornaments. Everywhere she went, she traveled with her crochet hook and some yarn. Her hands were always busy. After Rob passed away in 2004 she became an active volunteer two days a week with her Church at the Soup

Kitchen in Fort Myers, Florida with her friend, John Isaia. This job was one of the great pleasures of her life. Bernice is survived by her six children, Judith Hayward, Parachute, Colorado; Sandra Michael McConnell, Madison, Wisconsin; James Deb Kloth, Arlington, Wisconsin; William Sharon Altenburg, Ft Collins, Colorado; Holly Rick Gray, Blue Springs, Missouri; and Marianne Altenburg of Rio, Wisconsin. She is survived by 22 grandchildren and their husbands and wives and 28 great-grandchildren. She was so very proud of her family. She was preceded in death by her sister, Ruth; brother, Ervin and parents, Herman & Ida Luedtke. A Celebration of Life Gathering will take place in later May or early June 2011 in Madison, Wisconsin. Bernice has been cremated per her wish and will be buried at the DeForest Christian Faith Moravian Church Cemetery with Arthur.

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ I had the distinct PLEASURE of doing Bernice's hair every summer when she came to NY. I looked forward to her return every year and was saddened when she and Rob sold to stay in Florida. I still have a little log chair that Rob made and he and Bernice were so cute when they gave it to me. Bernice was a woman of intelligence and full of life. I will miss her all over again. Carol & Richard

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**Carol Garvin** - May 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

S&

“ Grandma, you will be so missed. You were what kept our family together. I am so happy to have had a grandmother like you and most importantly, happy that my children were able to see what a great grandmother does for her family. We Love You. Rest in Peace.

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**Scott, Cathy, &** - April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Bernice was a great Lady. We worked together at ABS. Bill

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**Bill Murphy** - April 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HO

“ We enjoyed being with Bernie when here in FI. We miss her very much. I know that John will miss her and the Soup Kitchen as well. If there is any way we can help the family we will be happy to help. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

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**Hotel,Abram-Helen** - April 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ I have many good memories of my conversations with Bernie. She and her family have been in my daily thoughts and prayers. May God bless all of her love ones.

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**Peggy White** - April 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Willie and family, I was so sorry to read about the death of your mother. I enjoyed meeting her all those years ago. My thoughts are with you and I hope that you and your family are well. Marcia

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**Marcia Gevelinger Bastian** - April 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I worked with Bernice at ABS. I loved her. She was such a beautiful, kind, happy person. She always had a smile on her face - even if faced with adversity. She was one of my favorite people who have passed through my life. I know how much you will miss her. I can still hear her talking about all of you. She did it all the time, as she so loved you. My best to all of you. Judy Busse Fish

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**Judy Fish** - April 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ I remember your mom from the Moravian Church, I thought she was so nice and always seemed to be smiling. It has been a long time since we all went to Sunday School there. May God's love surround you during this time of sorrow. Remember the good times.

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**Dorothy NichollsDunning** - April 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM