



## Delores "Dee" Leidner

November 7, 1941 - July 7, 2022

Dateline: East Alton

Delores "Dee" Leidner, 80, died at 12:51 a.m. Thursday, July 7, 2022 at St. Louis University Hospital. Born November 7, 1941 in Belle Rive, IL, she was the daughter of Jewell (Finn) Bennette of East Alton and the late Ralph Bennette. Dee was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church in Alton and retired as an LPN from Christian Hospital Northeast in St. Louis. She married Rodney "Rod" Leidner on November 17, 2000 in Bethalto. He survives. Along with her mother and husband, she is survived by her children, Tana Strohmeier (Keith) of Bunker Hill, Teresa Skersick (Perry) of Park Hills, MO, Bruce Wright of Bunker Hill, Michael Wright (Dawn) of Maryland, Melissa Macke (Tony) of Pocahontas, and Susan Matter (Scott) of Belleville, Also surviving are 17 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, two brothers, Charles Head (Wanda) of Peoria, AZ and Gary Head (Chris) of Edwardsville, a sister, Janet Gears (David) of Worden and a sister-in-law, Pat Head of St. Ann, MO. Dee is also survived by her step-siblings, Sherry Sexton of Portland, OR, Jim Bennette (Denise) of St. Louis, MO, Randy Bennette (Becky) of Meadowbrook, and Bobby Bennette (Sharon) of Boston, MA as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Along with her father, she was preceded in death by her first husband, James F. Wright, and a brother, Bobby Head. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Monday, July 11, 2022 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alton. Reverend Andre' Dobson will officiate. Burial will be at Bunker Hill Cemetery. Memorials

may be made to The Gideons International. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Bunker Hill Cemetery

Bunker Hill, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 11. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church  
1422 Washington Ave.  
Alton, IL

## Funeral

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church  
1422 Washington Ave.  
Alton, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Delores "Dee" Leidner*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Delores "Dee" Leidner*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM

DW

“ Today we celebrate the life of Delores Rose Leidner, but you may be more comfortable with one of her many other names: Dee, Rosie, Oma, Mom. A wife, mother, grandmother, sister, Aunt, and friend, Delores even became family to the strangers she met. Born November 7th, 1941 in Belle Rive, IL she is the daughter of Jewell (Finn) Bennette of East Alton and the late William Head. Delores is the oldest daughter of 9 children which include 6 boys and 3 girls. Growing up so close to family it was no surprise that she would soon want to start her own family bringing forth 4 children of her own into the world with the late James Wright. Delores also has 2 stepdaughters with her husband Rodney Leidner. Expanding the family even further Delores absolutely adored her 18 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. As a child, Delores went to Elementary school at the Bonnie Country School in Bonnie, IL. She graduated from Edwardsville High School in 1959 where she played on the Badminton Team, belonged to the Future Nurses of America, the Girls Athletic Association, Spanish Club, Music Listening Club, Future Homemakers of America, and worked on the school newspaper called the “Tiger Times”. When it comes to work there isn’t a soul who can say she didn’t put her all into every job she did. She worked at the Northside Dairy Bar during high school and later at the Trio Café in Bunker Hill. She was a Licensed Beautician and also worked at Alton Memorial and Christian Northeast Hospitals as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Delores had many hobbies as well. She loved to paint, quilt, crochet, and read. She enjoyed playing board games with her family, camping, quail hunting, and traveling by motorcycle. Some of her favorite things were butterflies and yellow roses. But what was closest to her heart, was to be in service to others as a Christian. She worked in various missions in Missouri, Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Dakota, and Louisiana. Delores was a member of the Gideons Auxiliary for 8 years and was a Prison Chaplain for the Madison County Jail. She taught Sunday School, as well as being the kindergarten teacher for the AWANA program. Preparing fellowship meals in her church was not an uncommon activity for her and she and Betty Jones once made 680 sandwiches for the

*homeless with Reverend Larry Rice. Dee was a beautiful, compassionate, kind, thoughtful, adventurous, fearless, independent, curious, strong, selfless woman who never knew an obstacle. Of all the pursuits and undertakings she has accomplished in life, there is one word that ties it all together. One word that gave her purpose in life. That word is love. Love for her family. Love for her friends. Love for the stranger on the street. And of course love for her savior. It was with love that Delores lived her life, it is with love that we say goodbye, and it will be with love when we are reunited again.*

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**Dawn and Mike Wright** - July 15, 2022 at 12:36 PM

MI

“ *My Aunt Dee was a warm and caring person. She touched our hearts and we will miss her. My grandmother Jewel, Rodney, Aunt Janet/Dave, Uncle Gary/Christine, Aunt Pat, Dad/Wanda and all my cousins share all the wonderful times to find comfort and take care to keep in touch with each other. Family is everything. Please take special care of grandmother.*

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**Michelle** - July 11, 2022 at 07:13 PM

RW

“ *Dee was such a beautiful person . She has been a special person in my family's life. I have so many wonderful memories of the love and kindness she gave us. Her smile and laugh will always be with me. She was a special woman . I feel blessed to have had her in my life. God welcomed a beautiful angel home. She will be dearly missed*



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**Rachel Wright** - July 09, 2022 at 09:14 PM

SC

“ I have precious memories of Dee and her family. She always included me in her family celebrations while I was visiting Illinois. She is a dear sister in the Lord, and I look forward to seeing her in the place He has prepared for His own. In the meantime, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers for her family as they face this difficult time of loss.

Sharon Bruntjen Curtis - July 09, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Delores "Dee" Leidner.



July 09, 2022 at 10:21 AM

CR

“ Colleen R. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Delores "Dee" Leidner.



Colleen R. - July 09, 2022 at 09:38 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Delores "Dee" Leidner.



July 08, 2022 at 06:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Delores "Dee" Leidner.*



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July 08, 2022 at 06:05 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Delores "Dee" Leidner.*



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July 08, 2022 at 05:43 PM