



Leona M. Skala

January 7, 1929 - February 7, 2016

Funeral services for Leona will be Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva. Pastor Diane Ryder will officiate the service.

Graveside services will follow the funeral and be held in the Geneva Public Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva.

Memorials are directed to the family.

Leona Maxine (Rezny) Skala was born to Frank and Ella (Rezabek) Rezny on January 7, 1929 in Western, Nebraska. She passed away on February 7, 2016 at Heritage Crossings in Geneva, Nebraska at the age of 87 years and 1 month. She was one of 4 children born to the family.

The family moved to Dorchester in 1942. In her youth, Leona attended country School Districts 32 and 79. She graduated from Dorchester High School in 1946.

When Leona was 16, she worked at Goodyear during the summer. After she graduated, she worked for Gooch's Mill in Lincoln, Nebraska and Crete Mills in Crete, Nebraska.

Leona married Albert Skala on May 24, 1949. They lived on a farm by Dorchester, Nebraska. They had two children: daughter Linda and son Gary. In 1952, they moved to a farm near Geneva, Nebraska.

On October 24, 1979, Albert passed away and Leona moved into town. She worked at the Safeway grocery store until it closed in 1982. She then took a position as a food service worker at the Geneva Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center. In 1990, Leona became the Food Service Manager at YRTC. She retired in 1996.

Leona loved farm life. She worked right beside her husband on the farm and helped to care for their livestock. She always had a large garden, even when living in town by herself. She loved to can and freeze the produce from the garden and, of course, share it with family and friends. Leona just loved to cook and bake. She enjoyed making large family meals for holidays. A fond time she mentioned to the family was the early morning breakfasts she made for son and great granddaughter McKenna. Cooking and baking and sharing it was one way she showed her love.

She took special pride in everything her 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren did. She enjoyed attending their programs and games. She made sure she taught her grand daughters and great grand daughters how to make kolaches. She was very proud of them when their kolaches won Grand Champion ribbons at the County Fair. When her children were small, she was also active as a Cub Scout and 4-H leader.

Leona would start a conversation with everyone she met. She loved to share her baking, and a lot of people got to enjoy her kolaches. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to anybody in need, and she usually brought some baking along to share.

Leona loved the outdoors, especially fishing. Some of her favorite memories included all the camping trips the family enjoyed while the children were growing up.

Leona also enjoyed playing cards and going on bus trips and to the horse races with her very special friend, Jake Schaldecker. As a grand daughter said, "She was one of the luckiest people I know playing bingo."

Leona was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Skala; father and mother Frank and Ella Rezny; brother Melvin Rezny; and sister Norma Shestak.

She is survived by her son Gary Skala and wife Kathy; daughter Linda Schmidt and husband Dennis all of Geneva, Nebraska; sister Delma Svarc of Crete, Nebraska; grandchildren Amy Gonzalez and husband Louie of Geneva, Nebraska, Jamie Martinsen and husband Chad of Elgin, Nebraska, Jeff Skala of Geneva, Nebraska; great grandchildren Riley Chapman, McKenna Skala, Callie Gonzales, Cayden Gonzales, Kaylee Martinsen, Brenna Martinsen, and as Leona proudly said her 'namesake,' Braeylyn Leona Viola Martinsen; her special friend Jake Schaldecker, and a host of family and friends.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Aunt Leona will always be remembered; what a Great Aunt to have in a family. My mother, Mildred, always talked about Leona and how she was so willing to help anyone in the family and anyone in the neighborhood. Aunt Leona will be missed. There is a special place in Heaven for Leona. God Bless Leona and sympathy goes to the families of her children, Linda and Gary.

Dwaine Skopec - February 16, 2016 at 08:04 PM

DS

“ Linda and Gary and families. I am sorry to hear of your loss. I was not aware until today. Leona has a very special place in my heart. Her smile and her loving and caring ways will be remembered forever. She made holidays a delight and always cheerful.

May God Bless you at this difficult time. Let your memories warm your heart and keep her love alive.

Love, Donna Stehlik and family (Nicole Olson & family, Ryan and Amy Svarc & family and Jason Svarc & family

Donna Stehlik - February 11, 2016 at 10:41 AM

SH

“ Leona was a dear sweet lady who was a very kind friend to my mother, Jean Hellbusch.....I will always remember how nice she was and always smiling

Sandi Hellbusch Campbell

Sandi Hellbusch - February 10, 2016 at 09:32 AM



“ 24 files added to the album Flower Cards



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - February 10, 2016 at 08:17 AM

PM

“ *Leona was very special and I feel privileged to have known her. She always asked about the girls and Preston no matter where we bumped into each other. I especially enjoyed visiting with her when she was the "popcorn lady" at the bank. She will be greatly missed. My prayers are with your family. I hope you find comfort in knowing how many people loved her.*

Pat, Paul, Preston, Priscilla, and Phylcia

pat mau - February 09, 2016 at 09:58 PM

TF

“ *Tim Angel & Xander Flohrs lit a candle in memory of Leona M. Skala*



Tim Angel & Xander Flohrs - February 08, 2016 at 01:18 PM

TF

So very Sorry for your Loss.

Tim, Angel & Xander Flohrs

Tim Angel Flohrs - February 08, 2016 at 01:19 PM

MB

“ *Marv & Bridgette Brummer lit a candle in memory of Leona M. Skala*



Marv & Bridgette Brummer - February 08, 2016 at 01:17 PM

MB

We are very sorry for your loss.

Marv & Bridgette Brummer

Marv & Bridgette Brummer - February 08, 2016 at 01:20 PM

DB

“ *Leona had such a ready smile and cheerful personality which she showered on everyone who came in contact with her. She didn't let her age keep her from her walking or getting out in the community and supporting activities of the Fillmore County Hospital Auxiliary. May she rest in peace, and may you be comforted by family memories as you grieve your loss.*

Deb Bixby - February 08, 2016 at 01:11 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Motis lit a candle in memory of Leona M. Skala*



Brenda Motis - February 08, 2016 at 10:06 AM

BM

I first met Leona when I was working at YRTC as a cottage staff, but wanted more hours so I helped out in the kitchen area. Your mom was a wonderful lady. I enjoyed helping her through the years. She was so grateful one year with the help she got with her Medicare that she baked Kolaches and gave me some. They will still warm when she brought them over. I still remember how my daughter described them, she said, "this is like heaven in your mouth." I enjoyed getting to know your mom over the years and visiting with her. My deepest sympathy to your family.
Brenda

Brenda Motis - February 08, 2016 at 10:15 AM

BM

“ *Brenda Mumm lit a candle in memory of Leona M. Skala*



Brenda Mumm - February 08, 2016 at 07:59 AM

GS

“ *Gregory Skala purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Leona M. Skala.*



Gregory Skala - February 08, 2016 at 07:06 AM

GS

“ My deepest condolences to Linda and family and Gary and family. She will be greatly missed.

Gregory Skala - February 08, 2016 at 05:48 AM

ME

“ So sorry to hear about Leona, she was a great person. We had a lot of fun times together and always good conversation. She will forever live in the hearts of everyone who knew her💕



Mark, Sarah, Brandon & Ethan - February 07, 2016 at 05:09 PM