

COMMUNITY

A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

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Call the Journal at 285-7411

Deborah Ann (Balaski) Werner

Deborah Ann (Balaski) Werner was born April 1, 1951, in International Falls, Minn.

Debbie went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014, with her loving family by her side.

Debbie was a 1969 graduate of Falls High School. After graduation, Debbie moved to Seattle, Wash., and lived with her aunt Helen and uncle Paul, and began working at the Evergreen State Bank where she worked for two years, returning back to International Falls in 1971.

Debbie then started to work for the Associated Loan Company for a short time. She then went to work full time at the State Bank of International Falls until 1973.

Debbie was then diag-

nosed with multiple sclerosis in 1973. She had to stop working due to health reasons.

In 1974 Debbie resided at Falls Nursing Home and later transferred to Northome Nursing Home where she met the love of her life, John Werner. Debbie and John married Feb. 20, 1982, and lived together in Northome for 30 years before moving to Big Fork, Spruce Lodge in 2008.

Debbie had a strong will to live. She had amazing faith in God. Her many passions were her family, friends, fellowship, shopping, writing letters, and receiving mail and pictures.

She was an avid sports fan of the Minnesota Vikings, Twins and her love for Tiger Woods and Johnny Cash.

Debbie was one to al-

ways make sure everyone was okay. She loved all the loving staff at the Spruce Lodge. She enjoyed the little treats of Border Bar pizza, walleye and venison from her brother Frankie on his visits.

Debbie was preceded in death by her loving parents, Frank and Ella (Miner) Balaski Sr.

Debbie leaves behind two brothers, Frank Balaski Jr., International Falls, and Richard Balaski, Warroad; former sister-in-law, Kris Everett; nieces, Lynde Mettler (Brad Hopke), Laura Hilliard (James) and nephew, Jon Balaski, all of International Falls; great-nephews, Cody Mettler, Gavin Loveless, Noah Hilliard; great-niece, Maddy Mettler; and loving friend, Joyce Thompson.



Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Big Fork, with visitation with one hour prior

The family suggests memorial condolences be sent to her brother, Frank Balaski Jr., 1801 Third Ave. W., Trailer 6, International Falls, MN 56649.

OBITUARIES

The Journal publishes paid obituaries in Wednesday and Saturday editions and on its Web site at www.ifallsjournal.com.

Obituaries must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesdays to be published in the Wednesday edition, and by 10 a.m. Thursday to be in the Saturday edition.

All obituaries must be prepaid before they are published.

Obituaries can be faxed to the Journal at 285-7206; e-mailed to tammiec@ifallsjournal.com; or mailed to The Journal at 1602 Highway 71, International Falls, MN 56649.

We encourage electronic delivery of obituaries and any accompanying photos.

If desired, The Journal will e-mail or fax a proof of the obituary to the funeral home handling the service.

For more information, call Tammie Calder at 285-7411.

Virginia Alice Vedaa Leerssen, 83

Virginia Alice Vedaa Leerssen, 83, of Austin, Texas, died unexpectedly Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014.

She was born April 26, 1931, in Wisconsin.

She grew up at Indus, Minn., and graduated from Indus High School.

She married the love of her life, Ralph Owen Leerssen, on Sept. 15, 1949.

They raised their family in International Falls, Minn., and Scottsdale, Ariz. After a short time in Livermore, Calif., they moved to Austin, Texas, in 1979.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph; her parents, Herta

and Hjalmer Vedaa; and brothers, Walter, Robert and John Vedaa.

Virginia is survived by her much loved family – children, Leah (John) Leerssen Lloyd of Austin, Darcy (Jacque) Leerssen of Columbus, Ga., Debbie (Bruce) Leerssen Biehler of Austin, Cynthia (Paul) Leerssen Ballard of Garden Grove, Calif., and Keith (Leslie) Leerssen of Scottsdale, Ariz.; 17 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; siblings — Richard Vedaa, Audrey Vedaa, Graham, JoAnne Vedaa, Amundsen, Jerry, Norman, Kenny Vedaa and Marilyn

Vedaa Bremermann; sister-in-law, Beverly Leerssen Beck. And, their large and loving families across the country.

She will remain a part of all of us.

Her request was there be no services. Take that time to remember her smile and warm hugs. Be generous with your gifts and talents as she was. Bake cookies with a child or for a cherished friend or neighbor. Teach someone to knit or bless them with a baby blanket, hat, mittens, scarf, animal, or slippers. Read a good book. Listen to some Willie Nelson or Patsy



Cline. Think of her while hanging your meaningful Christmas ornaments. Enjoy your flowering plants. Toast her with a glass of red Menage a Trois!

Gilbert ‘Gibby’ John Custer, 62

Gilbert “Gibby” John Custer, age 62, of International Falls, Minn., died at his home Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014.

Gibby was born Sept. 18, 1952, in International Falls.

He liked to play Chess, read, listen to his music, ride his bike, and watch the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins games on television.

Gibby graduated from Falls High School in 1971.

He worked at the Indian Center Bingos and delivered The Daily Journal and

Duluth papers for several years. He also worked at Hardee’s Restaurant and Stop and Shop.

Gibby was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Mary Jane Custer; his sister-in-law, Eleanor Custer; and nieces, Cheryl Custer Underhill and Amanda Custer.

Survivors include his brothers, Darrel Custer of Hot Springs, S.D., Dennis Custer of International Falls, Ronnie Custer of Monroe, Wash., and Tom Custer and Richard Custer, both of

International Falls.

Surviving sisters are, Marilyn (Elwood) Hell of Monroe, Wash., Carol Custer, Mary (Paul) Mongrain and Barbara Custer, all of International Falls.

Gibby also left many nieces and nephews, many cousins in the Bigfork and Wirt, Minn. areas, and his special friend, Peggy Ridgeway.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Green-Larsen Mortuary.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.



Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls, is in charge of arrangements.

Sarah Elizabeth Remus, 17

Sarah Elizabeth Remus, 17, of Ray, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014.

A complete obituary and service times will be announced when arrange-

ments have been completed.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

FUNERAL

Lawrence Alert Foss, 89

Memorial services for Lawrence Alert Foss, 89, who passed away Monday, Oct. 6, 2014, were conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, at Zion Lutheran Church, International Falls.

Officiating was the Rev. Stephen Olson.

Organist was Joe Belanger and guitarist Talon Howdahl.

Vocalists were John Streiff

and Rachel Foss.

Eulogy was given by Kathy Howdahl and lector by Violet Johnson.

Flag presentation was given by Brian Briggs and Wayne Sampson.

Honorary pallbearers were all his family and friends.

Interment is at Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls.

Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.



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