

# OBITUARIES

## JUDITH PHYLLIS BRAAK



Judith Phyllis Braak, 80, of Wright, Wyoming passed away on January 29, 2020 surrounded by family. She was born May 9, 1939 to Edward and Dorothy Koski in Hovland, MN. She was raised by her grandparents and attended school and graduated in Grand Marais, MN. She met and married James Mealey on May 17, 1958. Together they raised four children, Lynn, Barbara, Julie, and Edward. They lived in Beaver Bay, MN where they enjoyed being outdoors, camping, and fishing. The family moved to Wright, Wyoming in 1978. James and Judy were later divorced. In 1982, Judy met and married Allen Braak; together they had a daughter, Amy. Judith worked as a bartender a majority of her life. She was always a friendly face in the community. Her compassion shone through during the holidays, as there were always people that had nowhere else to go, sitting at her dinner table. She also loved to garden and spend time at her backyard pond. You could find her on Sundays cheering for the Minnesota Vikings (often cussing them out in Finn!) She loved family get togethers and playing cards with friends. Elvis could always be heard in the background. She will be missed by all. She is survived by her husband Allen, children, Lynn, Barbara, Julie, Edward and Amy; 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and 9 siblings. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

## MARY LOUISE BOOTH



Mary L. Booth died Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at Duluth, Minnesota. She was born in Hibbing to Stanley and Leona Saccoman on August 28, 1928. She grew up in Nashwauk and married Norman Booth in 1950. She attended St. Scholastica and graduated with a degree in Education in 1967. She taught in the Lake Superior School District for 21 years, teaching at Mary MacDonald, Campton and North Shore Elementary schools, retiring in June of 1988. Mary Louise lived in Silver Bay for many years before moving to Duluth, where she most recently was a part of the Benedictine Living Community.

Mary was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Duluth, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Silver Bay and the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Two Harbors, and the Minnesota Education Association and National Education Association.

She was preceded in death by her husband Norman in 1962, sons Michael and Frederick, son-in-law Richard Grupe and brother Richard Saccoman.

Mary is survived by her children, Charlene (Booth) Ostenberg (Robert) of Duluth, MN, Norman Booth (Alane) of Zumbrota, MN, Mary Pat Grupe of Loveland, CO, James Booth (Laura) of Duluth, MN and Kathleen (Booth) Biondolillo (James) of Glendale, AZ, daughter-in-law Debbie Booth (Frederick), Boulder City, NV and brothers Frederick Saccoman of Duluth, MN and Stanley Saccoman (Dorothy) of Lakeland, FL, 19 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Alzheimer's Association of Duluth or St. Luke's Hospice.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 PM on Saturday, February 15, 2020 in the Westwood Chapel at the Benedictine Living Community. A private interment will be held at a later date. To sign the online guestbook please visit [www.cavallinfuneralhome.com](http://www.cavallinfuneralhome.com).

## RUTH ELAINE LARSON



Ruth Elaine Larson of Silver Bay, MN passed away on January 20, 2020. In recent months she had been a resident in the memory care unit for dementia at Diamond Willow in Lester Park.

Ruth was born on March 8, 1930 in Duluth, MN, the daughter of John and Selma (Strom) Bloomquist. She was a 1948 graduate of Denfeld High School and a 1951 graduate of St. Luke's Nursing School. After earning her registered nursing degree, she was employed by St. Luke's Hospital in the intensive and coronary care units for over 20 years. For her, nursing was a calling and she dedicated herself to helping the ill.

At a very early age, Ruth's singing voice was recognized as extraordinary. While in high school, a voice coach in the community arranged for her to continue her professional voice training in New York City. She eventually decided to turn that down in lieu of nursing. She went on to sing in many choirs and local ensembles, as well as becoming a paid soloist.

Because of Ruth's strong commitment and deep faith in Jesus Christ, she was always drawn to serve in some capacity at whatever church she attended. She was a Founding member of Lakeside Baptist Church in Duluth and served as their Sunday School Superintendent, as well as serving on several other church boards.

She and her husband, Vern Larson, moved from Silver Bay, MN to Siren, WI and then to Sarasota Florida. In her most recent years, they returned to Duluth and then back to Silver Bay.

When most people would be ready to rest in their retirement, Ruth discovered a new challenge that gave her great joy. She opened a gift shop at Bluefin Bay resort in Tofte, MN and later opened another gift shop in Siren, converting an old barn into a thing of beauty. Ruth had a positive "let's do it" outlook and was always ready for a new adventure in life. She was known to all for her gracious, loving, kind, and pleasant disposition. Those characteristics continued throughout her entire life until her death.

Ruth is preceded in death by her parents John and Selma Bloomquist; and three brothers Milton, Melvin and Earl Bloomquist, as well as granddaughter Emily Larson. Ruth married Vern Larson on August 13, 1966, and they blended their two families while making a home in Silver Bay. Survivors include her husband Vern Larson; four daughters: Annette Ellstrom, Becky Larson, Sharon (Tom) Gallagher, Kim (Don) Koedyker; two sons: David (Deanna) Larson and Dan (Donna) Larson; nine grandchildren: Bobby (Jenny) Larson, Kirsten (Steve) VanDoren, Ben Larson, Chelsea (Joe) Allen, Becca Larson, Matt and Mike Gallagher; Hannah and Ian Ellstrom; three great grandchildren: Sonja, Norah, and Micah Van Doren; their adopted family: Julio, Yeli, and Grecia Martinez; many loving nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

Ruth's entire family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff of Diamond Willow of Lester Park for taking such astonishing and loving care of Ruth these past 27 months.

Funeral services will be held at First Covenant Church, 2101 West 2nd St. in Duluth on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 11 am. Luncheon to follow. There will also be a visitation at the same location on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Memorials can be sent to: University of Northwestern-St Paul, 3003 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55113; First Covenant Church in Duluth; The Salvation Army; or any other charity of your choice.

To sign the online guestbook please visit [www.cavallinfuneralhome.com](http://www.cavallinfuneralhome.com).

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, January 27, 2020  
Inmate Population: 3  
•0228 Deputy out with occupied vehicle on Hwy 1.  
•0727 Deputy responds, along with THPD, to report of a disturbance on 13th Ave.  
•0855 Deputy speaks with resident regarding suspicious activity.  
•1131 Deputy responds to report of damage to property on Hwy 61.  
•1326 Deputy responds to report of a possible disturbance.  
•1640 LCRS responds to medical on South Ave. One transported to LVMH by ambulance.  
•1853 Deputy serves papers at SB residence.  
•1920 Deputy serves papers at TH residence.

Fairgrounds Rd. Warn for seat belts.  
  
Thursday, January 30, 2020  
Inmate Population: 4  
•0147 Deputy responds, along with THPD, to report of a psychological problem.  
•0822 Deputy and LCRS respond to medical on Horn Blvd. One brought to LVMH by ambulance.  
•0943 Deputy serves papers at TH business.  
•1011 Deputy makes traffic stop on Wales Rd near Hwy 2. Warn for speed.  
•1413 Deputy responds, along with SBPD, to request for a welfare check. All ok.  
•1509 LCRS responds to medical on Larsmont Rd. One transported by ambulance to LVMH.  
•1519 Deputy makes traffic stop on Outer Dr. Warn for speed.

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
Inmate Population: 2  
•0008 Deputy responds, along with THPD, to check welfare of individual.  
•0737 Deputy responds to report of a school bus stop arm violation. Citation issued.  
•0755 Deputy to medical in TH. One brought to LVMH by ambulance.  
•0817 Deputy responds to report of vehicle theft.  
•2043 Deputy checks on residence on house watch list. All ok.  
•2102 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 61 near Lax Lake Rd. Warn for speed.

Friday, January 31, 2020  
Inmate Population: 4  
•0019 Deputy removes dead deer from Hwy 61.  
•0102 Deputy responds to report of car vs deer on Shoreview Rd. Deer dispatched.  
•0247 LCRS responds to medical on 1st Ave. One transported to Essentia by ambulance.  
•1015 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 61.  
•1545 Deputies responds to request or a welfare check on Hwy 12. All ok.  
•1617 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 2. Warn for no front plate, no rear tail light and failure to change address.  
•1740 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 61 near Isackson Rd. Warn for headlight.  
•1751 Deputy makes traffic stop on Scenic Dr near Coolidge Rd. Warn for no tail lights.  
•1824 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 61. Warn for

Wednesday, January 29, 2020  
Inmate Population: 3  
•0532 Deputy takes report of a driving complaint.  
•0933 Deputy responds to medical in KR.  
•1415 Deputy transports inmate from SLC jail to LCJ.  
•1839 Deputy responds to report of an abandoned vehicle.  
•1841 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 2 near

tail light.  
•1854 Deputy assists THPD with traffic stop.  
•1916 Deputy serves papers at TH residence.  
•1940 Deputy assists probation.  
•1942 Deputy and LCRS respond to snowmobile accident near Hwy 2 and E Alger Grade. One transported by Lifelink to Essentia.

Saturday, February 1, 2020  
Inmate Population: 4  
•0142 Deputy assisted SBPD with traffic stop.  
•0232 Deputy responds, along with THPD, to report of a domestic dispute.  
•0931 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 1 near White Iron Rd. Warn for speed.  
•1040 Deputy speaks to resident regarding stocking.  
•1421 Deputy responds to report of MVA Property Damage.  
•1427 LCRS responds to medical on Hwy 1.  
•1625 Deputy makes traffic

stop on Hwy 61 near Colonial Inn Rd.  
•1958 Deputy makes traffic stop on 7th Ave.  
•2155 Deputy responds to medical on 1st Ave. One transported to LVMH by ambulance.  
•2201 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 1 near Pebble Ln. Warn for equipment.

Sunday, February 2, 2020  
Inmate Population: 4  
•0057 Deputy makes traffic stop on Ronning Dr near Hwy 2. Warn for equipment.  
•1155 Deputy makes traffic stop on Hwy 1 near Klinker Rd. Warn for speed.  
•1447 Deputy and LCRS responds to report of a snowmobile accident near the Cramer Rd. One transported by ambulance to SLH.  
•1612 Deputy checks welfare of party in TH. All ok.  
•2250 Deputy responds to report of snowmobiles driving fast on road.

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