



Bernice M. French

January 23, 1923 - February 9, 2020

Bernice M. French, 97 of Crystal Falls passed away peacefully on February 9, 2020 at the Iron County Medical Care Facility while in the loving embrace of her two daughters. At last she is free from the ravages and devastation of Alzheimer's Disease.

Bernice was born on Jan. 23, 1923 in Milwaukee, WI, daughter of the late Norman and Hattie (Poetzel) Wegner. She spent most of her life in Milwaukee and worked for over thirty years for the Master Lock Corporation until she moved to Iron River in 2013 to live with her daughter and son-in-law. While working for the Master Lock Corporation in Milwaukee, she served as proud member of the UAW and as a union steward for many years. After her retirement, she volunteered at the Mount Olive Lutheran School and the Penfield School for disabled children in Milwaukee.

Bernice dearly loved children and was a deeply caring, compassionate and loving person, always eager to lend a helping-hand to anyone in need. She also enjoyed

being "Up North". She loved nature, wildlife, birdwatching and everything about the outdoors, including hunting, fishing and gardening. Bernice also was an avid reader, she loved to dance and was a wonderful cook and baker. She was a very devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her

grandchildren and great-great children meant the world to her. She enjoyed music, laughter and was a loyal Denver Broncos football fan.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Norman (Joyce), Wegner, James (Marie) Wegner and a sister Lucille (George) Raths; her dear friend and companion of many years, Rudy; and her best furry-friend and protector, Bacchus, the loyal Golden Retriever.

Bernice is survived by her daughters, Susan Hughes of Milwaukee, WI and Joy (Paul) DeNicola of Iron River; her sister, Mary Ann Wegner of Milwaukee; beloved grandchildren, Elliot (Sandra) Hughes of Milwaukee and Jason Hughes of Racine; great-grandchildren, Miguel (Christina) Hughes and Aliyah Hughes. She is also survived by a niece, nephew and friends. She will be profoundly missed.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Iron County Medical Care Facility and especially to all of the staff on the Iris wing for the outstanding care provided to their mother and to the family during her stay. Special accolades go out to the Diversional Therapy Department, especially Stacy Donati, Jennifer Cole, Mary Takala, and Jessica Schultz, to dietary staff Mitzi Dube, and Tracey West. A very special thank you to a most extraordinary nurse, Georgette Cunningham and her nursing assistant, Sheri Kernats for their kind and steady support, and for their exemplary devotion and loving care. Their remarkable commitment to the care and comfort of Bernice, during a tremendously difficult time lightened the family burden immensely.

A private family memorial service will be held in the spring.

Condolences to the family of Bernice French may be expressed online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home and Cremation Service with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

PD

“ My mother-in-law was a sweet and gentle soul. She raised her children as a single mother and as difficult as that was, she found the means to take her daughter Joy, my future wife, to see the Beatles in New York's Shea Stadium in 1966. She was selfless and helped to raise her grandchildren and great grandchildren giving them guidance and love. She told me years ago that I should come and experience the Northwoods, saying that if you want to find peace and tranquility, that is where you and Joy will find it. And she was right. I have so many fond memories of her that I cannot list them all here. I fondly remember that she loved funny movies so we would watch them together including one of her favorites at Christmastime, the DVD "Christmas Vacation." After she retired she would sometimes travel to Las Vegas, which she absolutely loved. She also went to Hawaii with her youngest sister. But her spiritual home was always the Northwoods. She loved to fish and was darn good at it. When she could no longer participate in that sport, she gave me her rods, reels and fishing tackle. Whenever I use that gear, I will think of her and imagine she is by my side giving me tips on how to catch the big ones. Thanks mom for being there for me and for being part of me life.

Paul DeNicola - February 18, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JE

“ My sincere condolences to Bernice's family. Her enthusiastic attitude towards all she knew is a strong memory of mine. She made those who met her feel instantly accepted with the warmth she exuded. Her presence made a difference to many and will be missed.
Jean Lahti

Jean - February 16, 2020 at 12:39 PM

JD

“ Joy DeNicola lit a candle in memory of Bernice M. French



Joy DeNicola - February 15, 2020 at 02:29 PM

JH

“ I lost my Grandma a true angel in my life and a beautiful soul i was fortunate to call family. She touched the lives of so many and brought happiness to those who were lucky enough to have known her. Any good quality i have in my heart was personally placed there by her. In my childhood i was broken and lost filled with anger. She picked up the pieces and put me back together and helped heal the anger in my heart and fill it with hope and love. She continued to do so my entire life and i feel so lucky to have had her presence around me. I feel blessed i had the chance to say goodbye to let her know just how much she meant to me one last time. To let her know i love her to hopefully touch her soul with the same love she had always given me before she left. To say ill miss her doesn't touch the surface of the loss i feel but i know she lives on inside my heart and the rest of my family. I'll never forget the love you placed in my soul and i'll truly remember every moment we had together. Hopefully this isn't truly goodbye and just a see you later till then my angel, friend and grandma i Love you with all my heart and I'll always remember to smile.

Love - Jason Hughes

Jason Hughes - February 15, 2020 at 11:08 AM

JD

I love you Jason. Your sentiments are beautiful and deeply touching. You meant the world to your grandma.

Joy DeNicola - February 15, 2020 at 12:09 PM

PF

“ Joy, I am sorry for your loss. How wonderful to have had your mom for this many years. A blessing for sure. May you find peace in your heart and laughter in all of the wonderful memories. Blessings!
Punner Franzene

punner Franzene - February 14, 2020 at 08:06 AM

JD

Punner: How very thoughtful of you to post to my mom's obituary. I deeply appreciate your thoughts and condolences. Thank you so much. My mom was an amazing woman and will be missed, but we are grateful her suffering has ended.

Joy DeNicola - February 15, 2020 at 10:25 AM