



Leona Mae Atkinson

April 1, 1923 - November 17, 2019

Leona Mae Atkinson nee Deschand, was born April 1, 1923 in Momence, IL to the late Albert and Nelida Deschand. As a young adult, she moved to Bradley, IL where she raised a family with the love of her life, John Sidney Atkinson II whom she married December 21, 1941 in Jacksonville, FL. Most recently, Leona resided at Our Lady of Victory where she brought joy and blessings to everyone who knew her. She passed away peacefully with family at her bedside on November 18, 2019 at the age of 96.

A loving mother, grandmother, and homemaker, Leona loved playing the organ, crocheting and was an avid Elvis fan. Above all, Leona was the true meaning of unconditional love. She raised many family members like they were her own children and loved with her whole heart. She had unwavering faith in God and never passed judgment on those around her. Giving to others brought her happiness. She gave to those in need until she had nothing left. Her family and God meant everything to her,

Leona was predeceased by her loving husband of 39 years, John S. Atkinson II on November 18, 1981. She was also predeceased by her brothers, Robert Deschand, Eugene Deschand, Leon Deschand, one sister Sharon Schroeder and one granddaughter Deanna Atkinson.

She is survived by a son, John S. Atkinson III, two daughters; Judith Sutherland and Cheryl Atkinson and her sister Rose Kelly. Also surviving are her grandchildren; Alana (Gary) Britt, Steven Sutherland, Alyssa (Lee) LaMontagne and Kristin (David) Ciarrocchi. 11 Great Grandchildren, 3 great-

great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Her niece, Andrea Kopsell lovingly helped care for her the past 4 years of her life. Her sisters, Gwen Jones, Denise Rattin and Sharon Burch also aided with her care and they all loved her like a mother. The family gives them and everyone else who cared for Leona their greatest and warmest gratitude.

The visitation will be 10 am to 12 pm Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Bourbonnais Chapel. The funeral will follow at 12 pm with Rev. Ron Neitzke officiating. Inurnment will follow immediately at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Family Wishes.

Please sign her online guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 21. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel
1100 N. Convent St.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-2421

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel
1100 N. Convent St.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-2421

Tribute Wall



“ *Leona Mae Atkinson*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *I just now am reading obituaries and am so sorry for Leona's family for their loss*

Penny & Jerry Noe - December 28, 2019 at 04:18 PM



I just read this obituary. I am so so sorry. Leona was a wonderful loving person. Who enjoyed the company of friends and family. I enjoyed talking to her and visiting with her and her family at their home in Bradley. I loved to hear her play the piano and talk about her life and the love she had for her family. She was a friend and a neighbor . I missed our talks and laughs. I know she's in the arms of our Lord. Jan skibins. 215 Belmont bb

JAN SKIBINS - May 20, 2020 at 02:15 AM



“ *I was Leonas Housekeeper at one time and I sure loved our times we shared talks and laughter with her .. I am so blessed to have known her ..I miss her .. May She Rest in Peace and Prayers for the family.*



Sondra Stone - November 21, 2019 at 11:24 PM



“ I remember meeting Leona when I had a small stay at Our Lady of Victory! Not a day went by that she didn't greet me with a smile and ask me how I was. And my daughter works at Our Lady and every day she would ask her how I was. What a kind , beautiful lady. She will be missed. So verry sorry for your loss. May she fly with the angels now.

Debbie Casey - November 20, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ Aunt Leona, you will be dearly missed. Thanks encouraging a creative spirit in me even as a small kid. You showed what family should be & graceful resilience. Thank you. I will cherish fond memories of you.



Scarlett Mullikin - November 20, 2019 at 08:55 AM



“ Sr. Martha lite a candle in memory of Leona Atkinson. I will miss her. She was an inspiration for all of us. My prayers and blessings are with her and her dear family.



Sr. Martha Harrington,sscm - November 19, 2019 at 08:44 PM

BR

“ My condolences to Leona's family. She will be missed at Our Lady of Victory. Leona was witty and fun and always had a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes and was friendly to everyone. I was privileged to know her.

*Bonnie Ross
Receptionist
Presence Our Lady of Victory*

Bonnie Ross - November 19, 2019 at 08:24 PM

RH

“ So sorry, my condolences to all the family!

Rowland Lee Herron - November 19, 2019 at 05:50 PM

DC

“ Leona was my Mother, Judith Phillips roommate for a short time, and was such a beautiful lady. She had a heart of gold and a very strong faith in God. We enjoyed many of her stories, and her loving spirit. God bless her and her family 🙏

Darla Casey - November 19, 2019 at 04:20 PM

NP

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Leona's passing. My family met her when my mother in law roomed with her at Our Lady of Victory. She was a very sweet woman. Thoughts and prayers to all of her family.

Nona Phillips - November 19, 2019 at 02:55 PM

PN

“ Heard about Leona from Judy. Am so sorry for all of your loss. I am not going to be able to come to the services. I have fractured my left knee and have a brace on it right now. Can't do too much walking. Again, am very sorry for your loss. God bless all of you
Penny (Rehmer) & Jerry Noe

Penny(Rehmer) & Jerry Noe - November 19, 2019 at 11:12 AM

DB

“ *Darla And Chris Bell lit a candle in memory of Leona Mae Atkinson*



Darla and Chris Bell - November 19, 2019 at 10:41 AM

PB

“ *My sincere sympathy to Leona's family. I fondly remember bringing her Holy Communion when I was volunteering at St Josephs. She was truly a woman of faith and hope, a generous and forgiving soul. She always had a smile and a story to tell. She brings a bright light to heaven. God bless her and her family.*

Pat Blanchette

Pat Blanchette - November 19, 2019 at 10:40 AM

KC

*Thank you so much for sharing that memory and such kind words. I'm sure she appreciated your kindness.
Granddaughter Kristin Ciarrocchi*

Kristin Ciarrocchi - November 19, 2019 at 11:04 AM

AK

“ We had a birthday party for her 86th birthday. I made a cake which had all the names everyone called her. Mae ,mother, aunt Leona aunt lee ,grandma ECT. We had an Elvis impersonater for her. She remembered that always ❤️💙💙

Andrea kopsell - November 18, 2019 at 10:02 PM