

Delores "Dee" (Waldee) Kokan, age 81, of Sherburn, MN, passed away at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Fairmont, MN, on Monday, May 18, 2026.

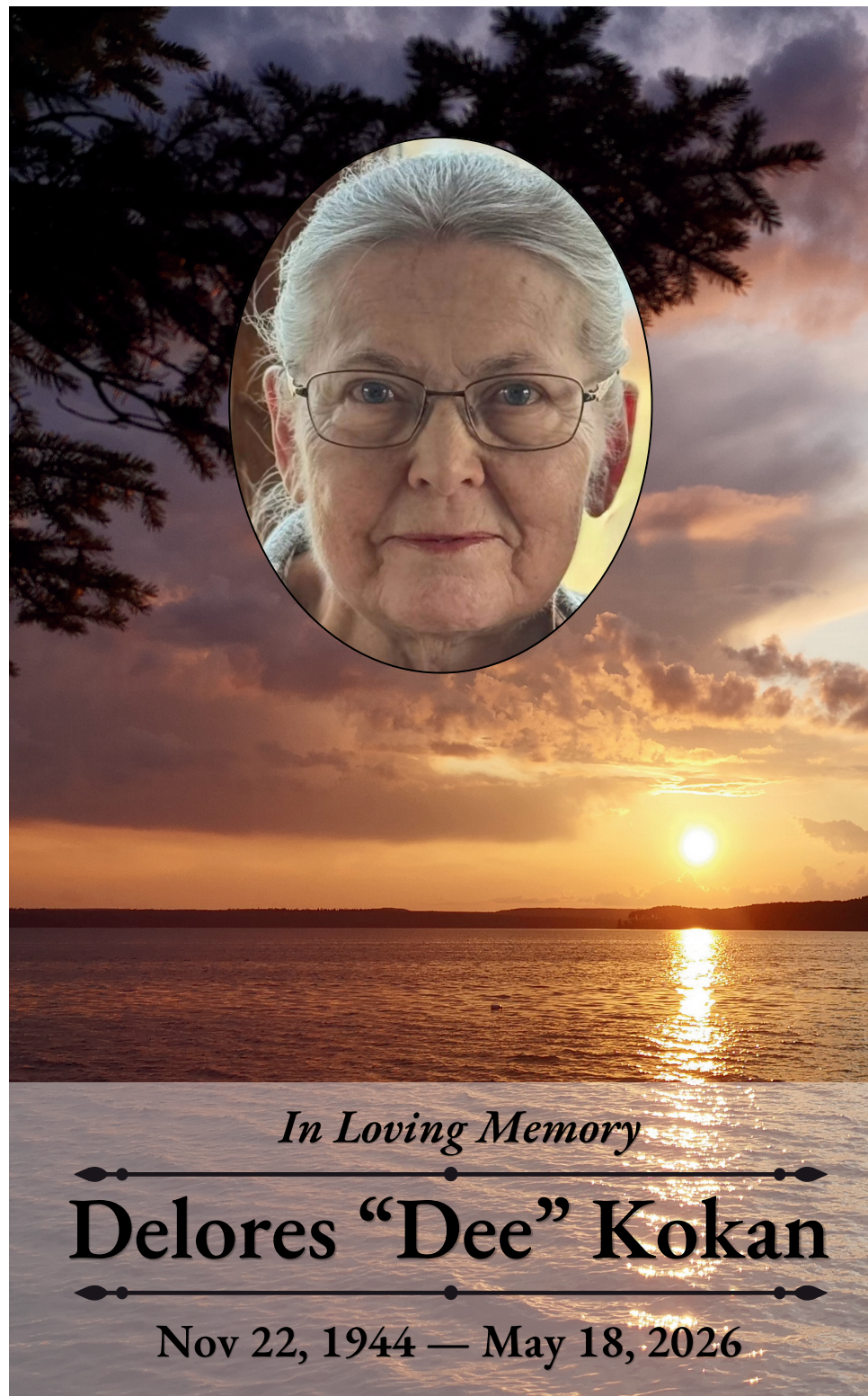
Dee was born on November 22, 1944, in Sherburn, Minnesota, to Lavern and Alma (Brockmann) Waldee. She grew up in Sherburn and went on to earn her degree from the University of Minnesota, Morris. In 1971, she and her husband Razi moved to Woodbridge, Virginia, where Razi pursued his career with the Navy. Woodbridge would be home for the next 35 years, and Dee made it her own in every sense. She devoted herself to teaching young children as a preschool teacher and was a dedicated and active member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. She also gave generously of her time to a local public school, leaving a lasting impression on the children and families she served. Her years in Woodbridge were full and meaningful, shaped by faith, community, and a genuine love of nurturing others.

After three and a half decades in Virginia, Dee returned back home to Sherburn, Minnesota, to care for her mother. While many retirees head south in search of sunshine and warm weather, she loved the cold climate - especially the view of her lake during a snowstorm, a sight she never tired of.

Dee had a lifelong love of animals and was rarely without at least one faithful feline companion. She cared so much for animals that she couldn't hurt a spider. She would always humanely capture them and release them outside, something she even taught her preschool students to do. She treasured the bonds she had built over a lifetime, and her cherished circle of longtime friends, the GGs, held a special place in her heart. Those who knew her remember her warmth, her loyalty, and the genuine joy she took in the people around her.

Dee was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Razi Kokan, who passed away in 1999, and by her parents, Laverne and Alma Waldee; brother, Lee; and many beloved aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her three sons: **David** (Julie), **Daniel** (Amanda), and **Timothy** (Stephanie); seven grandchildren: Alex (Allison), Ed, Amy, Sam, Caroline, Matthew, and Aubrey; and one great-grandson, Leo. She is also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends spread across the country who were a source of deep and abiding joy throughout her life. The love and connection she shared with them was a thread woven through every chapter of her story.



Celebrating the Life of
Delores “Dee” Kokan

Nov 22, 1944 — May 18, 2026

The Family Tree

A limb has fallen from the family tree.

I keep hearing a voice that says, ‘Grieve not for me’.

Remember the best times, The laughter, the song.

The good life I lived while I was strong.

Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.

Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.

Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.

Continue traditions, no matter how small.

Go on with your life, don't worry about falls

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.

Until the day we're together again.

Celebration of Life

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Sinn Family Celebration of Life Center

Sherburn, MN

Funeral Celebrant

Ean Sinn

Music

In My Life

Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What A Wonderful World

Thank You

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Please accept this as our note of thanks.

The Family of Delores “Dee” Kokan

If you would like to leave a message of sympathy for Dee's family or view her tribute video you can do so by following this QR code or visiting www.sinnfuneralhome.com.

