

Sally Limanen, age 82, of Faribault, MN, formerly of Perham, MN, passed peacefully on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from dementia. She is survived by her sister Rae Giovannelli (Sterling) as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other close relatives who will miss her dearly. Sally was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert Limanen in 2005; her father, Walter Sterling; mother, Maxine Sterling; and sisters, Jean Mahler (Sterling) and Carol Beaupre (Sterling).

Sally was born on July 3, 1942, in Faribault, MN and graduated from Faribault High School in 1960. On a double date in the twin cities, she met her soon-to-be husband, Robert Limanen (only he was not her date at the time!) They were married in 1963 and moved to Marquette, Michigan when Bob joined the Air Force. Bob then served a tour in Viet Nam and following his discharge from the service and a short stay in Minneapolis, he moved with Sally to Perham to be near lakes and his Finnish family. There they lived for many years until Bob died at an early age due to complications brought on from agent orange connected with his time in Viet Nam. Sally's sister, Rae, soon thereafter moved to Perham and the pair were almost inseparable, being active with friends, family, and church. The bond between sisters grew even deeper as Rae cared for Sally through all stages of her dementia, and it was so evident especially when Sal recognized Rae, even in her last days, with a loving smile.

Sally truly loved family, fishing, feeding the birds and her flower garden. She was a great woman of faith and character, always with a smile on her face and up for a laugh and a good game of cards. Although a rare disease prevented her from having children of her own, her love for her dogs was unmatched and she adored each of her many nieces and nephews as well as all her extended family members. Sally was like a second mom to many, affectionately known as "Grandma Sal" to her great-nieces and nephews. She was grateful to live near some of her family who brought constant joy and invaluable support to both her and Rae, especially as Sally's disease progressed.

Sally was known in the small town of Perham as the "Butterfly Lady" as she loved butterflies and always had jewelry or clothing with butterflies; and her flamingo yard collection was legendary. Sally devoted years of service at White Drug store and volunteer work at St. Henry's Catholic Church.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Sally Ann Limanen
July 3, 1942 - March 12, 2025



*The butterfly emerges from
its silken shell-
Reborn, it arises,
no longer bound to earth.
Free at last, the butterfly glides to
heights unknown before.*

*So do our loved ones
find a beautiful release
as, earthbound no more,
they leave our sight
and joyfully rise
to a garden of matchless beauty,
a place of light and peace.*

--Evelyn Phillips

*Memorial Mass
Friday, March 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham, Minnesota
Officiated by Father Omar Guanchez*

Gathering Hymn	647 Lord of all Hopefulness
Eulogy	Cindee Lundin (Niece)
Reading	Hosea 14: 2-10 Anthony VonRuden (Great Nephew)
Psalm	Shepherd me, O God, Beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into Life.
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to You, Lord Jesus, King of Endless Glory
Gospel	Mark 12:28-34
Sermon	
Gifts Hymn	Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace written by Great Nephew Michael Mahler
Gift Bearers	Rae Giovannelli (Sister) Jill Rosett (Niece) Amy Archambault (Niece) Perri Rosett (Nephew)
Mass of Creation	Found in back of the Hymnbook
Communion Hymns	719 What Wondrous Love is This 671 On Eagles Wings
Song of Commendation over the blessing of the Urn May The Angels Lead you into Paradise	
Closing Hymn	680 Amazing Grace
Musicians	David Mahler (Nephew) Beth Hein
Server	Piper VonRuden (Great-Great Niece)
Honorary Urn Bearers	All of Sally's Nieces and Nephews

*Graveside Service Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery
Little Falls, Minnesota
Officiated by Father Joe Herzing*