



Valborg Skorpen

October 12, 1922 - January 15, 2010

Valborg Egge Skorpen , R.N., was born October 12, 1922 to Thomas and Edwina (Egge) Skorpen on the family's farm in Nelson Township, Barnes County. She was baptized at Sheyenne Valley Lutheran Church.

Valborg attended Ellis and King rural schools after beginning her education at home. In 1940 she was graduated from Valley City High School. That fall she began her undergraduate studies at Valley City State Teachers College. After two years there she transferred to the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn., from which she was graduated in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Following graduation, Val moved to Helena, Mont., where she was head surgical nurse at St. Mary's Hospital for two years. She then returned to her home farm and began working as office nurse in the Valley City practice of Dr. W.H. Gilsdorf for several years, but Val never lost her love for Helena and for Montana. Following her employment by Dr. Gilsdorf, Val taught in the School of Nursing at Mercy Hospital.

Encouraged both by the opening of Interstate 94 between Valley City and Jamestown and by a physician from New York City working at Mercy Hospital who told her "a forty-five mile commute to work is nothing," Val began work at the North Dakota State Hospital in Jamestown in 1959. She initially served as associate director of psychiatric nursing education, but later became acting director. During these years she was very active in the N. Dak. State Nursing Association and served on the State Board of Nursing. Her colleagues honored her for her service to the profession as North Dakota nurse of the year. For twenty-five years, until her retirement, Val faithfully commuted from her home on the farm south of Valley City to Jamestown, five days a week, in every kind of weather. Few things gave her more pleasure in retirement than knowing she could stay home during a blizzard.

For seven years, beginning in 1956, Val served as an officer with the U.S. Army Reserve 311th General Hospital. She retired with the rank of major.

Val was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, where she was confirmed. She was a lifetime member of the Beta Sigma Phi social sorority. She contributed to many conservation and animal welfare organizations, and was a generous supporter of Concordia College, the College of St. Scholastica, and Valley City State University.

Val cared deeply about quality nursing care and excellent nursing education, and her professional life was a full one. Yet her true love and passion were to be found elsewhere. Her family, the farm that was her home nearly all her life, and everything that is part of farm life—seedtime and harvest, nature up close, lambs and colts, calves and kittens: such things as these always gave her the greatest joy.

Val's health declined significantly after a fall in her home in 2006. Her family wish to extend special thanks to those who helped her during the last three years of her earthly life: Sandy Randklev, who made it possible for Val to stay in her own home until this past year; the staff of Hospice of the Red River Valley, especially Helene, Becky, and Gloria; and the nurses and aides at Hi-Acres Manor in Jamestown, where Val moved last August. Val was not only a nurse by training and profession, but by temperament as well. No one appreciated quality nursing care more than she.

Val is survived by her sister, Borgni Edin, Jamestown; nephews Charles Edin and his children Charles and Taylor, Bismarck, and Bradley, rural Valley City; niece Barbara and her friend Donald Brummond, Fargo; and several cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Events

JAN **Service** 02:00PM

22

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd St. NW, Valley City, ND, US

Comments



“ I don't remember many Christmases without Val at Grandma Isabelle's house. Very sad to hear of her passing. My thoughts go out to all family and friends.

Blaine Pederson - January 30, 2010 at 05:13 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. The Skorpen family was always good to us.

Milton & Yvonne Sauer - January 27, 2010 at 11:12 AM



“ I was a member of the class of 1956 of the Sisters of Mercy School of Nursing. Though the years have passed by, memories still remain of the compassionate spirit that she had. What a wonderful example she was to all of us nursing students. I know she influenced me as I carried out my duties as an R.N. over the many years that followed our graduation.

MARY JEAN DIBBERN BENNER - January 26, 2010 at 04:08 PM



“ Borgni, I was planning on coming to the service because of the memories I have of working with Val. She was a big influence in my nursing career. The roads and weather aren't that great. I'm not like Val, getting to places not matter what.

Patsy

Patsy Klose - January 22, 2010 at 11:45 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Val's family. I will miss the twinkle in her eye and the practical and down to earth advise she would offer. She was an inspiration to me as I returned to college and recieved my nursing degree. I was an honor to be a part of a caring team of nurses from Mercy Hospiptal that cared for Val.

videlle - January 21, 2010 at 04:33 PM



“ I'm sending my deepest sympathy and prayers.
I was a member of the Mercy nursing class of 1956 and truly appreciated the education I received from Val in every way. It served me well in the nursing profession for so many years. She was a true inspiration to so many of us.

Mary Ann (Taylor) Steffan - January 19, 2010 at 06:27 PM



“ Miss Skorpen was one of my nursing school instructors at Mercy School of Nursing, Valley City-circa 1953-1956. She will always be remembered as a kind, sweet soul who cared about her profession and her students and instilling in us values that made us better nurses and nursing advocates. Memories.

Wanda Limmesand Bruns - January 19, 2010 at 01:46 PM