



Loretta M. Schafer

March 9, 1936 - April 24, 2023

Loretta M. Schafer, 87 of Bonita Springs, FL passed away Monday, April 24, 2023 at her residence. Formerly of South Bend, IN she had been a resident of Bonita Springs for the past 34 years. She was born March 9, 1936 in South Bend, a daughter of the late Julius A. and Aletha C. (Helmlinger) Szalay.

Survivors include her children, Bryan T. Schafer and his wife, Lisa of Cincinnati, OH, Scott A. Schafer and his wife, Jeanne of Granger, IN, Renee M. Williams and her husband, Buddy of Auburn, AL; daughter-in-law, Carolyn Ellington of Seymour, IN; 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas C. Schafer in 2019; son, Randy L. Schafer in 2023; brother, James Szalay; and sister, Dolores Voss.

Loretta married her high school sweetheart, Tom Schafer in 1957, quickly bearing four children and building a beautiful life together for 62 years. Loretta simply loved people and loved to laugh. Loretta will be remembered for her love for planning and hosting events. Her personality was infectious, and she was the life of a party with her wonderful sense of humor and fun-loving antics. Loretta was a gifted seamstress, cook and gardener, and she also enjoyed traveling.

For nearly thirty years Loretta and Tom spent summers at their residence in

South Bend. There, they tended their beautiful gardens and entertained family and friends. Loretta always hosted a large family reunion at her beloved “Riverside Retreat.”

As an avid golfer, Loretta helped pioneer women’s golf in South Bend at the newly developed Elbel Golf Course in 1964. Many of Loretta’s dearest friends came from her love of golf and the many tournaments and events that she participated in. She was an active part of the civic communities in South Bend and Bonita Springs for 50 years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 9:30 AM at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 28300 Beaumont Rd., Bonita Springs, FL 34134. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations in her memory be made to Hope Hospice 27200 Imperial Pkwy., Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany’s Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated since 1978.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 6. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
28300 Beaumont Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Tribute Wall



“ *Loretta M. Schafer*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Life gifted me with having someone like loretta . I was her caregiver for 3 years . We shared beautiful memories together . i have no words to describe the outstanding human being she was . Definitely one of a kind . You will forever live in my heart granny ! I love you !
Grethel*

Grethel - May 10, 2023 at 07:52 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Loretta M. Schafer.*



May 05, 2023 at 06:58 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to your family. Your mom was a wonderful person who was a great friend to my parents. I have many fond memories of her at tail gates and parties with my parents. She will be missed by many.*

Patty Midili

Patty Midili - May 01, 2023 at 11:43 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretta M. Schafer.*



April 30, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Loretta's family. She truly was a great classmate at Holy Cross School and Central High School. She convinced me and Bill Prybysz to help her have a 60th Class Reunion at Clay Park. Everyone enjoyed her company. Prayers for her and Tom. Fran (Dabrowiak) Rinehart.*

Fran Rinehart - April 30, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ *Words cannot even convey the beautiful person our wonderful friend was to everyone! Fond memories of our golf and beach parties. Our sincere condolences to family and friends! The Rinehart's*

Kathleen Rinehart - April 29, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ *I am heartsick to hear of Loretta's passing! We went to high school together and served on many a reunion committee after that. She was a beautiful woman both inside and out....always smiling and laughing. Everyone loved Loretta!!*

Norrine Bruce McCune

Norrine McCune - April 28, 2023 at 02:16 PM

SB

“ Loretta and I became great friends through golf. I even forgave her for taking my 1st hole in one ball out of the hole before I got there. We could laugh about anything. and we did - many times to our embarrassment.

What a love and beautiful person. She loved her family and cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We will miss her - but she leaves me with many many fond memories.

Love Sandy Beyrer

Sandra Beyrer - April 28, 2023 at 02:03 PM

AS

“ Grandma Schafer was always excited to see me & my children, her great grand kids, Dylan & Chloe Schafer. We spent time in Florida & had fun with her by the pool & beach, looking at family pictures & seeing Grandpa. We had fun experiences like going mini golfing together & even going to the local pool together in South Bend when they still had a house there. Throughout my childhood me & my siblings Michael & Danielle also have fond memories of our Spring Breaks from school spent in Florida seeing Grandma & Grandpa Schafer. One time they even took us to Universal Studios in Orlando. Me & my kids, & my siblings, will always cherish those memories.

Love, Ashley

Ashley Schafer - April 27, 2023 at 08:41 PM