



Bertha Louise Fagerman

May 12, 1934 - December 2, 2024

Bertha Louise Fagerman died of sepsis on December 2, 2024, comfortable in her own home. She was 90 years old.

Known as “Louise” to her close family in the Boon area, she was preceded in death by her husband Carl Edwin Fagerman; Brothers Victor (Becky) Okoren and Michael (Betty) Okoren; Parents Victor and Bertha Okoren; and daughter-in-law Theresa Fagerman.

Bertha had a full, rewarding life. She was born May 12, 1934, in Boon, Michigan, and recalled vividly her memories as a child when the day the world would end while on a school bus. When WWII ended, she ran across the neighborhood shouting its end, joyously telling all. While in high school, she eagerly studied the sciences and, after a near death event with poisoning from her band uniform’s blue dye, she chose to stay an extra two years in school to learn all she could on self-fulfilling topics including cooking, canning, 4-H, sewing, shorthand, typing, and band. She studied hard. She graduated from Mesick High School in 1952. She graduated with honors as a Registered Nurse from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids with extended experiences in the Tuberculosis Ward in Pennsylvania, and as a community nurse in Grand Rapids, and many more. She graduated from University of Detroit Mercy as one of the first graduates in the State of Michigan to be a Nurse Anesthetist. She earned her Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and proudly

became the first nurse anesthetist in Cadillac's Mercy Hospital system in 1956.

Bertha had high expectations of her future husband and shared her requirements with her Aunt Elizabeth Cameron. To her surprise, Aunt Liz set up a blind date with Carl Fagerman, and it was immediately obvious he met the requirements: exceedingly handsome, honorable, exuding integrity, religious, caring, family focused, highly respected, hardworking, and very intelligent. Shortly thereafter they were married happily for years.

After having their first child, Carl and Bertha made the commitment to prioritize the rearing of the children over Bertha's anesthetist career. She raised six children, being ever present and available for her family, something she could not do while working. In recent years, she reflected and repeatedly said she raised the five boys for the World and the sixth child was a daughter for herself.

Carl and Bertha worked hard to teach their children to believe in God and Jesus Christ. They personally helped with homework, ensuring each child had a comprehensive education. They traveled with their children around the country, as a family unit, to let them gain a broad experience and see the wondrous sites and the world. They owned and operated a cattle farm in Cadillac, Michigan, involving the children in all aspects of the business, ensuring they had solid values and knew right from wrong. For pleasure and farm, they provided horses and ponies.

Bertha was very spiritual and studied the Bible. She was dedicated to Zion Lutheran Church for many years, and being leader of the Women's Group, she personally crafted the four Lent Banners that hang at Zion Lutheran Church to this day. In 1994, she was granted the titles of Spiritual Counselor and Minister by the Universal Life Church. In 2002 she earned her PhD in

Religion.

Bertha loved going for rides around Long Lake in Haring Township. She loved nature, saying her farm and all her property is “God’s Country”. She loved gardening and her flower beds. She enjoyed her dogs, cats, ponies, horses, cattle and wild turkeys. She was a very accomplished artist, painting oil canvases of wildlife, nature, and people. She was a great cook, feeding her children healthy, homemade meals on an enormous scale. She served as Haring Township Supervisor, as did her husband Carl. She loved to visit neighbors and having people visit her especially at her lake house. She never quit schooling herself – learning all things from nature, to God, to health, to metaphysics.

She was blessed traveling around the world including the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Egypt, Kenya, and Japan. Her first honeymoon was for the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. In Japan, during her second honeymoon, she lost her purse on one side of the Japanese mountain range and was grateful when the police returned it to her the next day.

She is an incredible Mother. She is survived by her children: David Fagerman, Jeffrey (Nancy) Fagerman, Timothy (Karen) Fagerman, Mark (Theresa) Fagerman, Patrick (Emily) Fagerman, and Anita (Stanley Padyjasek) and her annexed son David (Hazel) Gilbert; Sister Frances Okoren; Uncle Richard Kruley; Sister-in-laws Betty Okoren and Becky Okoren; with many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Monday, December 9, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac with Pastor Scott Torkko officiating. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Visitation will be at the church on Monday from 10:00 AM until services. An online guestbook is available at www.peterso

nfh.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church
350 Pearl St
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-9821

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Was great to see her and her family at Zions 150 celebration. Prayers to all family and friends she left behind

Carla (Doan) Moffit - December 08, 2024 at 05:27 PM

MA

“ Margie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bertha Louise Fagerman.



Margie - December 08, 2024 at 09:52 AM

MA

“ Margie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bertha Louise Fagerman.

Margie - December 08, 2024 at 09:52 AM

TT

“ The LM Aeronautics Weapons Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Bertha Louise Fagerman.



The LM Aeronautics Weapons Team - December 06, 2024 at 07:21 PM

SL

“ Every summer, my Mom and I would stop at farm to visit Bertha, Anita and Stan. Lots of story telling and laughter. We loved Bertha's great smile❤️



Stella & Linda - December 06, 2024 at 06:41 PM

L&

“ Linda, Stella & Dave lit a candle in memory of Bertha Louise Fagerman



Linda, Stella & Dave - December 06, 2024 at 06:30 PM

LM

“ Linda M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bertha Louise Fagerman.

Linda M. - December 06, 2024 at 06:28 PM

BO

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family and especially my friend, Anita. I am so sorry for your loss and the difficult days ahead. I only met Mrs. Fagerman a couple of times, but I can see from her obituary and her daughter that she must have been a special mom. Anita, I'd like to catch up with you sometime. My number is 386-717-1080 if you'd like to call or text. Love, Bonnie

Bonnie - December 05, 2024 at 09:16 PM

TE

“ The E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bertha Louise Fagerman.

The E. - December 05, 2024 at 11:43 AM

KT

“ My sincere condolences to the entire family. My prayers are with you all. Aunt Bertha was one of the strongest women I have ever known and will be truly missed.

Kathy Tulick - December 04, 2024 at 04:32 PM

JE

“ Jeremy E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bertha Louise Fagerman.

Jeremy E. - December 04, 2024 at 02:28 PM

RA

“ My sincere condolences to all Bertha's family. Her parents & mine were longtime friends and I graduated with Bertha at Mesick. I always knew she was intelligent, but WOW, girl! "You came a long way, baby!" The Lord has blessed her children beyond measure by giving them such a mother. May His presence give you comfort in this difficult time. But we must recall Paul's words; "we grieve not as others grieve who have no hope"

Ron Altman - December 04, 2024 at 09:29 AM

EM

“ I remember Bertha and had many conversations with her at Zion. My deepest sympathy in your loss of such a special Mom. Am pleased to have known her. Peace Anita, Fran and each of you. What a blessing she was.

ELSIE L MOORE - December 04, 2024 at 09:09 AM

KD

“ Many fond memories of time on the farm with the entire Fagerman family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Kim Yearnd-Dunlop

Kim Dunlop - December 04, 2024 at 08:55 AM