



Diane Ruth Baker

January 22, 1940 - October 27, 2025

Diane Ruth (Egeness) Baker, age 85, was born to Leona (Brase) Egeness and Howard Egeness. Her family lived on a farm near Meriden, MN and attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church where Diane began serving as organist at a very young age. She attended the Meriden Country School through the primary grades and graduated from Owatonna High School with the Class of 1958. Following High School, Diane attended the Minnesota School of Nursing and graduated with the Class of 1959. She then worked as a Medical Technician for Dr. Ray Davis, in Waseca, until he retired.

Diane married Arleigh Baker of Waseca on September 26, 1964. Son Alan was born in 1966 and Thomas in 1969. While living in Waseca, Diane loved volunteering for school, neighborhood and church activities, especially those involving children's celebrations. She was especially fond of Christmas celebrations.

In December of 1973, the family moved to Longwood Florida, where Diane continued to volunteer for school, neighborhood and church activities. Diane enjoyed traveling with her family and also with her parents. She and her parents made a memorable visit to Norway in 1983, enjoying the scenery and searching for distant family. Arleigh's mother (Margaret) moved to Florida in 1978, into a home a few miles away. Diane provided much love and care, throughout Margaret's life in Florida, until she passed from Alzheimer's in 2006.

In 2016, Diane suffered a vascular stroke which impaired her speech immediately and caused her great frustration. From that point on, new symptoms of Dementia began to progressively appear and she eventually became unable to care for herself.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Leona Egeness and her brothers, Howard John Egeness and David Carl Egeness. She is survived by her Sister, Donna May Jacobsen, her husband, Arleigh, her sons Alan and Thomas, her granddaughters Megan Johnson, Amanda Bara, Allison Baker, Madeline Baker, Jewel Johnson and Skyler Johnson and her many nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Advent Health Hospice Care Of Central Florida at: <https://give.adventhealth.com/give/443568/#!/donation/checkout>

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

NOV 8. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel
905 Laurel Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

NOV 8. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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905 Laurel Ave
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Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Westfall family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ruth Baker.*

The Westfall family - November 07, 2025 at 11:17 AM

TF

“ *The Westfall family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Diane Ruth Baker.*



The Westfall family - November 07, 2025 at 11:17 AM

“ *The Last Dance*

One evening before, a dance on the shore, a friends house we gathered around.

When in came a princess, I felt defenseless, but happy with what I'd just found.

With skin that was fair, long strawberry hair, and other desirable charms.

I couldn't wait to see, just how it would be, to dance with her close in my arms.

I asked for a slow dance, could this be my romance? She was sort of a shy, gentle girl.

Didn't want her to know, and feared it would show, that she'd set my heart all awirl.

So I took my chance, just after the dance, and stole just a sweet kiss or two.

The very next day, I took her my way, and showed her the places I knew.

We talked of our plans, some out of our hands, and we became kind of in style.

When came that big greeting, our romance was fleeting, love letters must do for a while.

So we took a break, for our country's sake, and found ourselves single once more.

My prayers had been said, when an old friend was wed, my princess stood by the church door.

I spoke to my princess, my words came out senseless, and music began in my mind.

I asked for a date, for old times sake, if she could be ever so kind.

Then finally one night, when it was just right, I asked her if she'd be my wife.

and wished her to be, a partner with me, to dance for the rest of my life.

Now I'm pleased to say, no longer I play, my music for dancers to hear.

I play for my princess, still makes me defenseless, and still brings me all of my cheer.

And all these years later, we have our two sons, and pretty granddaughters you see.

Rewards have been plenty, I've always been thankful, that she saved her last dance for me.

Arleigh Baker - November 02, 2025 at 09:06 AM

GB

Lovely. Thank you for sharing.

Greg Baker - November 08, 2025 at 11:48 AM

AB

“ 1 file added to the album tribute wall



Arleigh Baker - November 02, 2025 at 09:03 AM

AR

“ 1 file added to the album Diane Ruth Baker



Arleigh - November 01, 2025 at 07:44 AM

FK

“ From the “Lulf” kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ruth Baker.

From the “Lulf” kids - October 31, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Diane Ruth Baker.



October 31, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Ruth Baker.



October 31, 2025 at 01:26 PM

DL

“ Was so saddened to learn of Diane's passing. While it has been many years since our last family gathering years ago, her kind and warming smile will always be how I'll remember her. Condolences to Cousin Arleigh and family.
Danny & Linda Lulf

Dan Lulf - October 31, 2025 at 12:15 PM