



Virginia Besse Long

November 22, 1919 - February 18, 2015

Virginia Palen Long, 95, of Dixon, passed away on February 18, 2015, in Dixon after a short illness. She had been a resident of Dixon Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center since 2013.

Virginia was born on November 22, 1919, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to Leo and Besse (Koch) Palen. She attended St. Raphael's Grade School and St. Joseph's Academy, both in Dubuque, Iowa. Her family moved during her senior year of high school, so she completed her high school education at Immaculate Conception High School in Davenport, Iowa, in 1937. In the fall of 1938, she moved to Dixon and has remained in Dixon for the past 77 years. Virginia worked for 23 years at the Lee County Department of Public Aid, beginning as a clerical and finishing as the Office Supervisor. She was active at St. Patrick's Church, serving as the President of the Catholic Women's Club for two years, Secretary of the Catholic Women's Club for seven years, and leading the Communion Service for residents of Dixon Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center for nine years. Virginia also has the distinction of having been St. Patrick's Church's first female lector, serving for a total of 37 years, from 1972 to 2009. Having never ridden in a commercial airplane until she was 59 years old, Virginia eventually travelled to 38 States, 23 countries, and four continents.

Virginia is survived by her son, Mark (Babe) Long of Palatine; three grandchildren, Samantha Long of Cleveland, Sarah Long of Champaign, and Mark Long of Palatine; and one brother, Bill (Renie) Palen of Dixon.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Besse Palen, and one brother, Reverend Robert L. Palen.

Visitation will be held at Jones Funeral Home in Dixon on Friday, February 20, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

The funeral service will be held Saturday February 21st, 2015, beginning with a 9:15 AM prayer service in the Jones Funeral Home followed by a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. Bernard Sehr officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery at 1111 Davis Street in Dubuque, Iowa.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

FEB **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon
612 S. Highland Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7719
office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net
<http://www.stpatrickdixon.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia Besse Long*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Virginia Besse Long*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *To Mark, Babe & Family,
Sending sympathy to you from TN on the loss of Aunt Gin. I tried to see her when I visited Dixon, I could always count on her for a smile and kind words. (we both liked a cup of coffee too!)
God blessed us by having her in our family and I believe she will continue to watch over us from heaven.
Peace Be With You,
Sue*

Susan (Palen) Seidel - February 19, 2015 at 02:51 PM



Thanks, Sue, for the beautiful sentiments. We know that she is watching over all of us from heaven. I'm devastated by her passing, but am happy for her. She had a heavy cross to bear these past 25 months and now is in the Presence of God.

Mark R. Long - February 23, 2015 at 06:24 PM