



MASS OF CHRISIAN BURIAL:

11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 22, 2023
St. Liborius Catholic Church
Polo, South Dakota
With Military Honors

OFFICIATING: Fr. Paul Josten

LECTORS: Delmar Schaefers and Dean Schaefers

OFFERTORY: Cheryl Schaefers and Sue Lammers

EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Doug Schaefers

MASS SERVERS: Jimmy and Jacob Lammers

PLACING OF THE PALL: All of Colleen's Siblings

CASKET BEARERS: "NEPHEWS"

Derek Schaefers, Nick Schaefers, Cory Schaefers, Sean Schaefers, Braden Dunnick, Matt Stoecker, Jeremy Stoecker, and Darin Stoecker

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS: "NIECES"

Danielle Phillips, Desirae McFee, Dixie Deward, Danae Kaczkowski, Alicia Brehm, and Jessica Corbitt

USHERS: Don Clement and Ray Venjohn

MUSICIANS:

Carol Schultz and Jerry Bowar

HYMNS:

"We Gather Together"
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
"Ave Maria" "Song of Farewell"
Marine Corps Hymn ~ "Halls of Montezuma"

INURNMENT:

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

MARINES



Should You Go First

Should you go first and I remain
To walk the road alone,
I'll live in memory's garden, dear,
With happy days we've known.

In Spring I'll wait for roses red,
When fades the lilac blue,
In early Fall, when brown leaves call
I'll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain
For battles to be fought,
Each thing you've touched along the way
Will be a hallowed spot.
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
Though blindly I may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
Will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain
To finish with the scroll,
No length'ning shadows shall creep in
To make this life seem droll.
We've known so much of happiness,
We've had our cup of joy,
And memory is one gift of God
That death cannot destroy.

Should you go first and I remain,
One thing I'd have you do:
Walk slowly down that long, lone path,
For soon I'll follow you.
I'll want to know each step you take
That I may walk the same,
For some day down that lonely road
You'll hear me call your name.

Colleen Marie "Lena" Leer, 67, of Faulkton, passed away Friday, June 16, 2023, at Faulkton Area Medical Center.

Colleen M. Schaefers was born August 11, 1955, to Jack and JoAnn (O'Meara) Schaefers in Faulkton, SD, the oldest of 10 children. She grew up in Polo, SD and spent a lot of her time helping her mom raise her siblings. On June 10, 1966, Colleen had open heart surgery at the University Minneapolis Heart Hospital. She attended high school in Polo, graduating in 1973. Following graduating, Colleen attended Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD, graduating with her B.A. degree in 1977.

Colleen was selected for Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA, and graduated in June 1978 as a Second Lieutenant. She attended Aircraft Maintenance Officer School in Millington, TN where she met her soon-to-be husband Cory "Dutch" Leer. After completing school, she was ordered to go to the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Tustin, CA, and worked with Cory in the same squadron. Colleen and Cory married on March 8, 1980, with full military honors.

During her 20-year career in the Corps, Colleen went on several deployments to Okinawa, Korea, and Japan. She also moved several times including homes in California, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Florida. In 1990 she was selected to be the 3rd Marine Air Wing Logistics Support Representative on General Schwarzkoff's staff for the planning and activation of Desert Storm and the invasion of Iraq. She was selected to attend the United States Naval War College in Rhode Island and graduated with a

Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies in 1994. She retired in 1998 with the rank of Major. No matter what unit she was attached to, the Marines she worked with admired and loved her. She became mom to all of her marines.

After retirement Colleen and Cory moved to Florida where she worked as a military consultant for several years. They enjoyed their own private beach and beautiful weather, except for hurricane season. In 2016 they moved to South Dakota to be closer to family and friends. She joined the Polo CDA and became state military chairman. She was a life member of Marine Corps Aviation Association and the American Legion. She enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, watching movies and NASCAR live or on TV. She loved the trips to California to visit the Leer family, playing games with the adults or having fun with their kids.

Colleen is survived by her husband, Cornelius "Cory/Dutch" Leer; mother, JoAnn Schaefers; siblings: Doug (Darla) Schaefers, Camille Dunnick, Dean (Dee) Schaefers, Delmar (De) Schaefers, Carole (Jeff) Stoecker, Doyle (Nubia) Schaefers, and Darwin (Cristi) Schaefers; brothers-in-law: Hans (Caroline) Leer and Stu (Nancy) Leer; sister-in-law: Janice Leer; two aunts; one uncle; ten nephews; eight nieces; and many cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father, Jack (2022); brothers: Darry and Dale (1984); three nephews; one niece; grandparents: Marcella and Clinton O'Meara and John and Louisa Schaefers; and brother-in-law, Henry Leer.