



Ann Marie Behnke

September 16, 1933 - March 16, 2026

Ann Marie Behnke, age 92, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2026, in Athens, Alabama after a brief illness. Ann was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on September 16, 1933.

Ann and her former husband traveled the country, when Coast Guard duty assignments took them to Cheboygan, MI, Traverse City, MI, Duluth, MN and Los Angeles, CA. Ann made a home for her children while her husband was aboard ship, often for months at a time.

Ann owned and operated the Seaway Motel in Sault Ste. Marie, MI for more than 30 years. She opened her heart to anyone in need, and often provided those less fortunate a place to rest for the night. After closing the motel, Ann moved in with her daughter Kim and son-in-law Jerry and spent her remaining years with them. Ann loved to read, knit, crochet, build jigsaw puzzles, cooking and gardening. Ann was a devout Christian and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Parish while she lived in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Paul Catholic Parish in Athens, Alabama when the family relocated.

Ann is survived by her son Bruce Behnke of Ardmore, Alabama, daughter Kim (Jerry) Stephens of Athens, Alabama, brothers Duane (Peggy) Mayer of Yelm, Washington and Dennis (Linda) Mayer of Juneau, Alaska, sister Juleta McFadden of Davenport, Iowa, grandsons Nathan Leask of Juneau, Alaska

and Dusty Behnke of Gillette, Wyoming, several great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Ann was preceded in death by her father Diamond Mayer and mother Jewel (Potter) Smith, her sons Diamond Behnke and Roland "Rob" Behnke, her brother Arthur LaVigne and grandson Christopher Behnke.

Donations in Ann's name can be made to the Hospice of the EUP, 308 W 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. www.hospiceoftheeup.com or St. Joseph Catholic Parish of Sault Ste. Marie.

A celebration of life and graveside interment will be held in Summer 2026 at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, MI.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Kim, Jerry and Bruce
Im so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed working with your mom at the Apple Blossom Shoppe. We soon were good friends. We had lots of Laughs and shared many stories. We will all miss her. Prayers for your family.*

susan brown - March 22 at 02:49 PM

WB

“ *I remember ann marie years ago. Super nice lady. We visited each other a few times. Did she ever look good for her age. She was full of positivity. She took care of her mother for many years and didn't want a dime when her mother died. I'll miss you ann marie. You and my ma can visit more now. She'd like that.*

Wallace Bosley - March 20 at 10:58 PM

JB

“ *Dear Kim and Jerry. So sorry to hear of Ann's passing. She was such a beautiful soul. I will never forget her weekly hugs she would give me after Mass. Her kindness and love always shined through her. I will be scheduling a Mass for her at St. Joe's. You and she are in my prayers. Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.*

Josie Benoit - March 20 at 03:38 PM

JS

“ *Dear Jerry and Kim - What an active life this lady lived. I'm sure she gave you a lot of love during her time with you. May she rest in peach.*

Jessica Stanaway - March 20 at 12:34 PM

JH

“ *Dear Kim and Jerry: Sending sympathy in your loss and prayers for peace and comfort.*

Joyce Henderson - March 20 at 11:32 AM