



## Alverna Marie Dejarlais

December 8, 1945 - May 7, 2026

Alverna M. Dejarlais, 80, formerly of St. Cloud, passed away on May 7, 2026. She was born on December 8, 1945, to Theodore and Alice Semmler Dejarlais. Alverna leaves behind a lasting legacy of hope and recovery, having dedicated her life to supporting others on their journeys toward healing.

Alverna spent many years working as a devoted substance abuse counselor, helping women in recovery. Known for her profound empathy and unwavering belief in the potential for change, she touched countless lives through her work in addiction counseling and helped build a stronger, more supportive community. She also spent countless hours chairing A.A. meetings alongside her husband, Bill.

On May 1, 1982, Alverna was united in marriage to William C. Oakley (“Bill”), and they shared 25 wonderful years together. They enjoyed antiquing, attending A.A. meetings, traveling throughout the United States and several foreign countries, and creating many cherished memories before Bill passed away on May 8, 2007.

Alverna proudly served as a veteran of the United States Army. She was passionate about her Native American heritage and took great pride in it. She owned “Alverna Dejarlais Birds & Pets,” where her love for birds was unmatched. As a dedicated bird breeder, she possessed incredible knowledge

of many kinds of birds and delighted in teaching others about them.

She also owned “Alverna’s Gemstones” and enjoyed creating beautiful handmade jewelry pieces for family and friends. One of her favorite hobbies was making rag rugs, a creative passion she truly loved. Alverna attended Clown University and became a professional clown, bringing joy and laughter to many. She also enjoyed a good game of Scrabble and loved the friendly competition and laughter it brought to family and friends.

Alverna is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Lavonne and Dan of Florida; her sister, Fralayla of Minnesota; her son-in-law, Eddie of Florida; her grandchildren, Keisha, Darrius, Eric, and Joseph of Florida; and her great-grandchildren, Silas and Kobyn of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore and Alice Semmler Dejarlais; her husband, William C. Oakley (“Bill”); her sister, Iola Brennan; her brother, Theodore Semmler; and her daughter, Debra Newson.

Alverna will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Per her request, no funeral or memorial service will be held.

# Tribute Wall



“ One of my closest and dearest friends for many years, she's with Bill now, carrying their message in the sky. There is a special place for someone like Alverna, I am Grateful to have known her and richer for the wisdom she brought to my life.

Jerry Brown - May 19 at 09:15 PM

KE

“ Keisha lit a candle in memory of Alverna Marie Dejarlais



Keisha - May 18 at 09:16 AM

KW

“ I can't believe I have now had to watch both you and mom both go to be with Jesus. Even though it makes me happy knowing you're both in no more pain and you're both in the place everyone one day wants to be but I just miss you both dearly grandma. I hope this obituary I wrote makes you proud and tells your life story how you would have wanted it to be told. You have been such an inspiration to me and why I chose the career path that I did because I too love to see recovery in the works. Until we meet again grandma give mom that hug and kiss for me ❤️ I'll see you again one of these days ☐



Keisha Wright - May 13 at 12:11 AM

KW

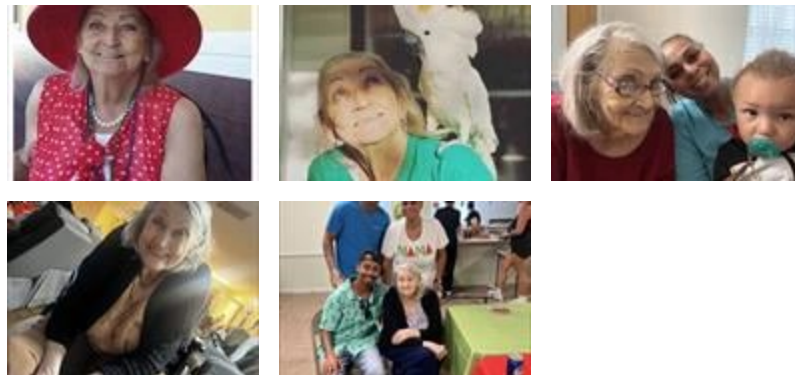
“ *Forever my girl. I love you forever grandma. Go rest high on that mountain. Until we meet again save a space for me and enjoy your dance with grandpa bill* 💕💕 *I love you I love you I love you* 🕊️



Keisha Wright - May 12 at 11:54 PM

KW

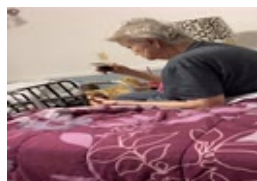
“ *17 files added to the tribute wall*



Keisha Wright - May 12 at 11:51 PM

KW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Keisha Wright - May 12 at 11:46 PM

KW

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Keisha Wright** - May 12 at 11:45 PM