



Judith A. Chiolino

October 24, 1940 - March 12, 2025

Judy Chiolino, a beloved member of the Minocqua community and the heart of Mama's Restaurant for decades, passed away on March 12, 2025, at the age of 84, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on October 24, 1940, to Irvin and Genevieve (Ted and Jenny) Dittburner, Judy grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from Bay View High School. She first came to the Northwoods on vacations during her high school years, never imagining that it would become her forever home. In 1960, she moved from Milwaukee to Minocqua with her then-husband, Ronald Milbrath, adjusting to life away from the city. Though she initially found it challenging, the Northwoods soon won her heart.

Judy's life changed when she began working as a waitress at Mama's Supper Club, a beloved family restaurant, where she met Tom Chiolino. The two fell in love and, after three years of courtship, married, blending their families together. They never spoke of "yours" or "mine"—only of their children as one family.

Judy worked alongside Tom at Mama's, becoming an integral part of its legacy. She managed the front of the house, handled scheduling and advertising, and greeted customers with warmth and kindness. She had a deep appreciation for the restaurant's history and cherished stories of "Mama"

Chiolino, who started it all. Even after Tom's passing in 1994, Judy remained connected to Mama's, witnessing its transition to the next generation.

Beyond the restaurant, Judy's energy went into her family and friends. She adored her children and grandchildren and took every opportunity to spend time with them. She was a devoted daughter, sibling, wife, mother, grandmother, and a friend to many, as well as a caregiver to those in need, including her parents, husband Tom, sister-in-law Irene, and her sister Carol, with whom she shared an especially close relationship. She also loved spending time with her friends, laughing out loud, cooking family dinners, playing cards, reading Steven King and mystery novels, tending to her plants, and caring for her pets who were her family too! Later in life she loved doing the annual snowbird dance between Wisconsin and Florida together with her dear friend Linn Balliet who she met in Rotunda West, FL.

Judy's love for the Northwoods endured throughout her life. She found joy in its changing seasons, the company of her family, and pets, and the warmth of friendships that lasted a lifetime. Her giving soul was always available to give a smile to a stranger, a listening ear to a friend, and words of encouragement to her family. She touched so many, many lives, and never expected anything in return. Her laughter, storytelling, and dedication to family and community will be deeply missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents Ted and Jenny, her sister Carol Schauer, her brother Mark Dittburner, her husband Thomas, and her dear friend, Linn Balliet. She is survived by her children, Michael Chiolino (Lori), James Chiolino (Terry Svaglic), Anthony Chiolino (Cheryl), Jeffrey Milbrath (Judy Mitchell), and Cara Hofmeyer (John); by her grandchildren, Matthew Chiolino (Kayla), Kelsey Hinterleitner (James), Kyle Vernon, Adam Milbrath, Kaylin Chiolino (Paul Valukas), Jessica Hofmeyer, Tasha Vernon, Megan Milbrath, Krysta Hofmeyer, Casey Vernon, Ryan Milbrath, and Tommy

Hofmeyer; and by her great-grandchildren, Nora Hinterleitner, Dominic Chiolino, Alice Hinterleitner, and Lincoln Chiolino.

Her journey through life, once described as a “wild ride,” now finds its peaceful rest.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Matthias Church.

403 E. Chicago Ave. Minocqua, WI 54548. Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM. The service will begin at 11:30 AM and a luncheon will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer’s Association (www.alz.org), the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (www.alzfdn.org) or any Hospice Care organization.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St Matthias Episcopal Church
403 E Chicago Ave
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-6758

Celebration of Life

MAR 29. 11:30 AM (CT)

St Matthias Episcopal Church
403 E Chicago Ave
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-6758

Tribute Wall

PC

“ To Judy's family, It was a privilege to know and spend time with Judy thru the years. She was always gracious and kind to Angela and me . She attended every birthday party for Angela growing up. She attended every birthday party for Angela's son until she moved south to be with her daughter , Cara. She was caring, loving and kind. She had a beautiful spirit that will live on in us all. God Bless Judy and her family. Patti Clothier

Patti Clothier - April 09, 2025 at 11:20 AM

SO

“ Our sincere condolences to the Chiolino family. Although I don't remember her, my parents always spoke fondly of her. Shawn & Sonja Murray

Sonja - April 03, 2025 at 11:11 AM

ME

“ Michael, Lynn and Rebecca Enea purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Judith A. Chiolino.



Michael, Lynn and Rebecca Enea - March 28, 2025 at 11:55 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Judith A. Chiolino.*



March 28, 2025 at 08:49 AM



“ *Judy's light will shine on in our hearts and in our memories forever. She is so special to us all. I will always remember the sash she was made to wear at one of the Mama's summer closing parties. I believe it said; Mrs. Congeniality. So true. Thank you Judy for all the wonderful memories.*
With Love, The Hamricks.



NeKole Hamrick - March 27, 2025 at 08:44 PM



“ *To the entire Chiolino family: My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Many wonderful memories of working at Mama's as day time prep cook in high school, getting to know Irene, Tom, Judy, Tony, Cheryl. Went there many times over the many years for dinners. Cherish all the wonderful memories!*

Hope M Lotzer - March 25, 2025 at 08:19 PM

JD

“ Jack and Suzanne Deichl purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Judith A. Chiolino.



Jack and Suzanne Deichl - March 25, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Judith A. Chiolino.



March 24, 2025 at 06:46 PM

LC

“ Lori Chiolino sent a virtual gift in memory of Judith Chiolino



Lori Chiolino - March 23, 2025 at 11:54 AM

LC

“ Mummy. The Kindest, Sweetest person I have ever known in my 66yrs of life. You always told me I was the Strongest person you knew. You were to me that too. 29yrs ago you told Mike to "buy that girl a drink". You knew we were meant for each other. I miss you. I love you and I always will. Your calls to ask my advice on things. Most people would think it'd be the other way around. You were so Caring it was beyond measure. It's not meant to be for me to be "strong" enough to come to the Memorial so I will share here. You are in my Heart and always will be. The whole family and all your friends and what you gave to everyone was immense. There really are no words. I know you have shared a special bond with us all. I feel out of place saying we had a "special" one, but we did. I love you sooo very much.

Lori Chiolino

Lori Chiolino - March 23, 2025 at 11:53 AM

NH

I love this post Lori!!

NeKole Hamrick - March 27, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Judith A. Chiolino.



March 20, 2025 at 03:23 PM

CV

“ Charlotte V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judith A. Chiolino.

Charlotte V. - March 20, 2025 at 10:07 AM

TW

“ *Our condolences to the family.*

Thomas Wipperfurth - March 19, 2025 at 08:57 AM

LJ

“ *Love ALWAYS, Babs Junior planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judith A. Chiolino.*

Love ALWAYS, Babs Junior - March 18, 2025 at 11:36 PM

LJ

“ *Love ALWAYS, Babs Junior purchased the Full O
f Love Bouquet for the family of Judith A.
Chiolino.*



Love ALWAYS, Babs Junior - March 18, 2025 at 11:36 PM