

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Lou Freeman

October 21, 1941 — September 4, 2006

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, September 9, 2006 • 1:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Alta, Iowa

CLERGY

Pastor Duane Olson

ORGANIST

Randall Ericksen

SOLOIST

Randall Ericksen

"Because He Lives"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"How Great Thou Art"

"Day By Day"

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

"In The Sweet Bye and Bye"

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS

Dr. Doug Larson — Dr. Donovan Crouch — Jim Hawkinson

Robert Burnside — State Senator Steve Kettering

All State of Iowa Legislators

CASKETBEARERS

Bill Hawkinson — C. Dennis Requist — Brad Hawkinson

Gary Holt — Marlin Friedrich — Dr. A.A. Stepan

INTERMENT

At a later date.

Arrangements by

FRATZKE & JENSEN FUNERAL HOMES

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The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside still waters.
He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me;
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life;

**And I will dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.**

—Psalm 23

We wish to express our gratitude for the kindness evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. You are invited to join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the church immediately following the service.

Mary Lou's Family



A Celebration of Life

Mary Lou Freeman

1941 — 2006

State Representative Mary Lou Freeman, age 64, died unexpectedly at her home near Alta, Iowa on Monday, September 4, 2006.

Mary Louise Hawkinson was born October 21, 1941 in Kandiyohi, Minnesota to James Martin and Anna Luella Sophia (Backlund) Hawkinson. She had one older brother, James Marvin, whom she looked up to and adored.

Mary Lou spent an idyllic childhood in Kandiyohi with her family and friends Barb, Nancy, Pat and Sonja. She was a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church where she was baptized and confirmed in the Lord's faith. She played organ for Sunday services through her college years, faithfully going home every weekend to play the old Swedish hymns that she so loved. Mary Lou attended Wittier Elementary in Kandiyohi and graduated high school in Willmar, Minnesota in 1959. She attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota and graduated in 1963 with a degree in Elementary Education.

Mary Lou was the mother of four children. She was a loving, caring mother who taught her children to be strong and level-headed, positive, generous, faithful and loving. She was very proud of her family and they were the most important part of her life. Her children, their spouses and grandchildren brought her great joy and she treasured their visits and calls. Her favorite gifts were handmade by her grandchildren.

Mary Lou spent her early adult years as a homemaker. The meals she prepared were always wonderful and made with loving hands. She could fix about any household problem, and she could make something old look beautiful again. Her home was always open to a friend and her kitchen table the setting for many heart-to-heart visits. Everyone was a friend to Mary Lou, who had a way of bringing out the very best in a person.

After her children were grown, Mary Lou touched many lives as a substitute teacher in the Storm Lake schools. She brought electricity

alive as "Louie the Lightning Bug." She continued to hear from past students and was so thrilled with their accomplishments.

In 1994, Mary Lou was elected to the Iowa Senate, a seat she held until 2002 when she ran successfully for the Iowa House, a seat she held until her death. Her career as an Iowa Legislator was a source of honor for Mary Lou and her family. The work she did to protect our natural resources was of great importance to her. She won numerous awards for the work she accomplished. Mary Lou was a quiet, positive leader, always looking out for the best way to find solutions for her state. At the time of her death, Mary Lou was Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee and served on the Commerce, Human Resources and Natural Resources Committees.

In the past year, Mary Lou has been a survivor of breast cancer. Her positive, upbeat attitude has helped her, as well as her family and friends, as she underwent surgery and treatment for this disease. She was cancer-free at her death. A 65th birthday party was being planned by her family for October, to celebrate Mary Lou's life.

Left to cherish her memory are her son Mark and wife Chris Freeman and their children, Erin, Tara, Megan and Dawson, of Lititz, Pennsylvania; daughter Sara and husband John Rekow and their children, Emily Louise and Anna Sophia, of Chaska, Minnesota; daughter Cary and husband Todd Friedrich and their sons, Ryan and Ross, of Alta; and daughter Maret Freeman and husband Edmund Ashley and their children, Peter Martin and Helen Elizabeth, of Portland, Maine; sister-in-law Helen Hawkinson of Kandiyohi, Minnesota; her nieces and nephews: Jim and Mary Hawkinson; Marcia and Gary Holt and their children Hannah, Jacob and Rebekah; Brad and Kris Hawkinson and their children Molly, Heidi and Charlie; and Bill Hawkinson; Swedish daughter, Kristina Helders; many other family members and a host of friends.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, and her great-niece Jennifer Hawkinson.

Mary Lou's Service
in the Iowa Legislature:
Iowa State Senate
1994—2002
Iowa State House of Representatives
2002—2006

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established by the family.