



Beatta Jean Edwards

March 8, 1928 - June 1, 2024

Beatta Jean Edwards, age 96, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake surrounded by her family.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 from 4-6:00 p.m. at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Beatta Jean Edwards was born March 8, 1928 in Linn Grove, Iowa the daughter of Harvey Evans and Opal (Johnson, Evans) Gaffin. Beatta weighed only two and a half pounds at birth and slept in a cigar box. She was welcomed into this world by her brother Darwin and sister Leone. On July 29, 1928 Beatta was baptized at the Lutheran Church in Linn Grove. In her youth Beatta was a member of Girl Scouts and Rainbow.

Beatta attended grades one through twelve at Storm Lake Public Schools. She graduated from Storm Lake High School in 1945. She continued her education after high school at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake where she earned her teacher's certificate in 1947. Beatta taught school at Nemaha and Fairview.

On May 29, 1949, Beatta was united in marriage to Kenneth Edwards at the Methodist Church in Storm Lake. They lived on a farm east of Storm Lake. Beatta used her money to get them set up in the chicken business. She also spent many days canning meat, freezing chickens, making homemade cinnamon rolls, jams, jellies and apple butter, and canning and freezing fruits and vegetables. To this union two children were born, Wayne J and Ann Louise. The family joined the Congregational Church in Newell December 12, 1954. Beatta taught Bible School and Sunday school for several years at the Congregational Church. After her children were born Beatta went back to Buena Vista College and earned her bachelor's degree in 1962. She taught school at Newell Providence from 1963 to 1983 when she retired. One of her greatest joys was seeing or hearing from her former students and sharing memories, smiles, hugs and laughs with them.

Many happy days were spent in the farmhouse kitchen gathered around the kitchen table with neighbors, family and friends enjoying fresh baked goods or a delicious meal. The egg coffee was always the main attraction. After the lunch or a meal, it was not uncommon for Beatta to challenge her guests to a game of lawn darts or croquet out in the yard. Beatta's kitchen also served as a roller rink, basketball court, dart game room and a chemistry lab for her children. Stern discipline was always the answer when the games became too rough.

Beatta and Kenny took their family on many vacations while the kids were growing up. They traveled to Chicago, Colorado Springs, Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the Black Hills. Some of the best vacations were with good friends at Lake Okoboji and Lake of the Woods. Beatta and Kenny always enjoyed attending the Spencer Fair every year and making those special trips to visit Wayne and his family wherever they were living in the United States. Many trips were made to Illinois to visit Ann and Tony. Beatta and Kenny spent a lot of days in the summer months playing in two-balls with their good friends at many of the area golf courses.

Throughout her lifetime Beatta had many activities that she thoroughly enjoyed including dancing & square dancing, playing the piano and chording on the piano with Kenny on his accordion, playing cards, golfing, reading, solving word scrambles and going out to eat. One of Beatta's hobbies was collecting small teacups and saucers. Every week, Beatta looked forward to getting her hair done by Brenda at The Cutting Edge. Beatta often enjoyed the simple pleasures of life like sharing a smile with someone, hot fudge sundaes, popcorn, a cold beer, the colors yellow and green, getting new clothes, decorating the house for the holidays and the seasons, new soft towels, animals especially dogs and Ann and Tony's dog, Maggie, birds chirping, setting the table with her holiday dishes for family holiday meals and special occasions and teaching. Reading her Bible and the Portals of Prayer everyday were important for Beatta. In her later years, Beatta often challenged herself to remember her former students and the classes they were in.

Beatta and Kenny were both very proud of their children and grandchildren and their accomplishments including high school graduations, various college degrees, marriages, and careers. Wayne and his wife, Julie, had two wonderful boys, Wilfred John and Carl Alexander. "Grandma and Grandpa" enjoyed watching these two boys grow up and followed their activities through many trips to visit, phone calls, pictures, and letters.

Beatta spent many precious years caring for her mother, Opal Gaffin, making sure Mother would be comfortable and well taken care of in her long life of 105 years. Many afternoons were spent playing King's Corners and drinking green tea.

Beatta and Kenny joined Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake on May 20, 1984. Beatta was very active in church. She served as a Deacon, was a

member of Circle and Presbyterian Women, and taught youth club. She also delivered meals on wheels, served as maintenance chair and was on the Alpha Core Committee.

Following Kenny's retirement Beatta and Kenny bought their dream home at 1511 Shoreway Road in Storm Lake in 1988. This was a time to entertain family and friends. Many cups of coffee, drinks, card games, cookies and cakes or delicious meals were shared around the kitchen table. Beatta and Kenny were always happy to have Ann and Tony visit and sometimes their dog Maggie would come along. It was always very special when Wayne and his family would visit Grandma and Grandpa in Storm Lake and sometimes bring their dog Brownie. Due to Kenny's health, Beatta and Kenny sold their home on Shoreway Road in February of 2015 and purchased a condo at Oakwood Place in Storm Lake and lived there until they both fell in the garage and for health reasons had to move to Methodist Manor on February 23, 2018. Kenny passed away at Methodist Manor on May 20, 2018. In the fall of 2018, Beatta moved into her "million-dollar home on the lake", the beautiful Methodist Manor. She lived out her life there with a daily view of the lake she loved, constant care and all the conveniences of home.

May 7, 2024 Beatta was so proud and thrilled to be able to see pictures of her first great grand baby, Opal Marie Edwards. Opal Marie was born in Reno, Nevada. Her parents are Wilfred and Sarah Edwards.

Those left to cherish her memory include her two children and their spouses: Wayne (Julie) Edwards of Reno, Nevada; Ann (Tony) Russell of Erie, Illinois; her two grandchildren: Wilfred (Sarah) Edwards of Reno, Nevada; Carl (Marie Smith) Edwards of San Francisco, California; great-granddaughter: Opal Marie Edwards; and many nieces, nephews, classmates, former students, friends and neighbors.

Beatta was preceded in death by husband Kenny Edwards, her mother and stepfather, Opal and Charles Gaffin, brother and sister-in-law, Darwin (Alberta) Evans, sister Leone Erickson, her father-in-law and mother-in law John and Margaret Edwards, brothers-in law and sisters-in-law Norman (Janina) Edwards and Francis (Myrna) Edwards, nephew: Joe Erickson, aunts and uncles and many classmates, former students, friends and neighbors.

Cemetery Details

Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Lakeside Presbyterian Church - Storm Lake
110 E. 3rd St.
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Beatta Jean Edwards*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - June 03, 2024 at 04:57 PM

AN

I love you Mom and miss you every day.

Ann - June 12, 2024 at 10:46 PM

PA

“ *So sorry to hear of Beatta's passing. We have never met, but by chance, I read in the Storm Lake Times Pilot that there was a card shower for her 96th and awfully glad I got a card out to her. Saddened to hear I cannot do the same this year. I now have read about her extraordinary birth and regret never knowing this remarkable woman. I know how the hurt from the loss of a parent lingers, my deepest sympathy to her loved ones.*



Patricia - February 20, 2025 at 08:42 PM

RT

“ Once when I was visiting Mom at Methodist Manor, we walked the halls. Wayne was visiting his Mom, and the 4 of us had a nice visit. May God comfort Wayne and Ann and their families!
May God also comfort your cousins, Laurie and siblings and families!
--Ruth (Buckendahl) Teppert, N-PHS, Class of '71



Ruth Teppert - June 27, 2024 at 10:04 PM

KH

“ So sorry to hear about Beatta’s passing. I remember so many birthdays we shared at Methodist Manor. Our prayers are with you all.

Karmen Hodgdon - June 20, 2024 at 07:19 PM

AR

Oh, Karman. I wondered if you knew Mom passed away. Thank you for your prayers for Mom and for sharing birthdays with her. That always tickled her.

Ann Russell - June 21, 2024 at 09:21 PM

LB

“ Mrs. Edwards was my 6th grade "home room" teacher and my 6th grade math teacher as well. I remember fondly greeting her some mornings in German and how she shared some of her heritage with us students. I think of my teachers at Newell Providence and wish I had thanked them after graduation for the significant role they each played in our young lives. They all deserve our respect and gratitude. Thank you so much Beatta Edwards. You were an awesome and selfless teacher.

Larry Beilby - June 16, 2024 at 11:19 AM

AR

Thank you, Larry, for your kind words about Mom. She always practiced her German while doing the dishes. That memory brings a smile to my face. I am sure Mom is smiling too. Thank you so much for your kind words. Ann

Ann Russell - June 22, 2024 at 04:12 PM

DJ

“ I remember Mrs. Edwards fondly as a teacher and lovely lady. She always had a smile on her face when Rod and I would run into her in Storm Lake. She made an impact on her students and will be forever remembered. My sincere sympathies to her family, may your many memories flood your mind and bring you a smile during this very difficult time. I am sure Rod was happy to see her in Heaven.

Diane R Johnson - June 05, 2024 at 02:09 PM

AR

Diane, our prayers are for you too. Mom loved her students and was always so pleased to see them in later years. She loved looking at former class pictures and thinking about memories of her former students. Thank you, Diane, for your thoughts and prayers. Ann

Ann Russell - June 22, 2024 at 04:14 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - June 04, 2024 at 04:47 PM

RJ

“ *Ronald Jensen lit a candle in memory of Beatta Edwards*



Ronald Jensen - June 04, 2024 at 03:45 PM

AR

Thank you, Ronnie. Ann

Ann Russell - June 22, 2024 at 04:10 PM

KB

“ *Kevin & Sian Butler purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Beatta Jean Edwards.*



Kevin & Sian Butler - June 04, 2024 at 02:59 PM

PC

“ *Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Beatta Edwards*



Pegi Cavanaugh - June 03, 2024 at 08:31 PM

SH

“ Sharon & Dale Heuiser purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Beatta Jean Edwards.



Sharon & Dale Heuiser - June 03, 2024 at 05:44 PM

SW

“ steve white lit a candle in memory of Beatta Edwards



steve white - June 03, 2024 at 01:44 PM

CC

“ I met Beatta at Methodist Manor last winter when I friend of mine was rehabbing there after a hip surgery. She told me she had gone to school with my mother, Marj Clough. During a later visit, I took my mother's high school annual to the manor. Beatta and I went through the book, page by page and she named every person in their class! It was such a bright moment. I'm sure she was a lovely woman. Her journey is over.

Candy Clough - June 03, 2024 at 09:53 AM

RW

“ Ruth Westergaard lit a candle in memory of Beatta Edwards



Ruth Westergaard - June 02, 2024 at 09:20 PM

AR

Thank you, Ruth! Ann

Ann Russell - June 22, 2024 at 04:15 PM

BS

“ *Passing along sincere condolences on behalf of my late mother, Una Mae Strader, a good friend and colleague of Beatta's.*

Brad Strader - June 01, 2024 at 08:46 PM