



Ila "Dot" Graves

September 11, 1922 - November 4, 2021

Ila "Dot" Graves, age 99, of Lakeside, Iowa died November 4, 2021 at Wel-Life in Alta, Iowa.

Memorial Services will be Monday, November 22, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Storm Lake, Iowa. Burial will be at Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior at the church. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake, Iowa is in charge of arrangements.

Ila Mae (Dot) Graves was born September 11, 1922 to Walter and Lottie (Grinnell) Hughes at Logan, Iowa.

Dot grew up the sixth child in a loving family of ten. She had six brothers and three sisters. She received her education at the rural schools in Harrison County.

Dot's father passed away when she was twelve years old and her mother became a mid-wife/care-taker which took her away from the home several days at a time. Dot was enlisted to look after the four younger children and keep the household running. She soon learned to get the meals on the table and "stretch" a dollar. The kids considered Dot to be a second mother and formed strong bonds that held true all their lives.

In 1942, she was united in marriage to Harlow C. Graves at Papillion, Nebraska. To this union five children were born; Sharon Kay, Carol Ann, Stanley Harlow, Richard John and David Marshall.

The couple farmed in Harrison County until 1945 when they moved to Buena Vista County. Their home became the place for Dot's siblings, spouses and friends to gather, especially for pheasant hunting season. They lived on several farms over the years settling on their acreage near Sulphur Springs. They farmed there until retiring to their lake home on Mallard Drive in 1986.

Dot was a loving, caring mother who supported her children in their activities as they grew up and encouraged them in their chosen endeavors. She was a super cook, baker, seamstress, and hostess. Dot loved nothing better than a big table surrounded by family and friends for a good home cooked meal.

She loved to garden – In her younger years she planted both vegetable gardens and flower beds. In her later years she could be found shopping the greenhouses for the right combinations for her many flower pots on the patio.

Dot loved the beauty of nature and cared for the birds and squirrels visiting the feeders. She looked forward to the migration of many birds each spring and fall and enjoyed the beautiful sunsets over the lake.

She enjoyed watching the grandkids frolicking and splashing in the water. Dot was seen occasionally worming a hook and fishing on the dock with Harlow and would go for a ride in the boat if it didn't go to fast!

Dot was a magnet for children, her own and others. As the family grew she welcomed each new baby into her loving heart and arms. She loved watching them grow and was interested in all their milestones along the way.

Dot and Harlow loved to travel and had many bus trips around the United States. They traveled to Europe, Hawaii and Canada. They spent several winters at their Caliente home in Arizona. They took in a few Chicago Cubs games during spring training in Mesa.

Dot was a life-long member of the Methodist Church where she served on many committees. She enjoyed her neighborhood club and belonged to a couple card clubs. She and Harlow had a host of wonderful friends and in their younger years enjoyed a night out at the Cobblestone Inn in Lakeside.

Dot and Harlow were always each other's helpmates. They attended church regularly and cared about their church family. They grieved together the loss of their youngest son, David, in 1991. They struggled through their own health issues, taking turns in the hospital. In 2001 because of Harlow's failing health, they flew home on a chartered jet. He passed away two days later. Together they shared 59 years.

Dot remained at her lake home for twenty years maintaining it and keeping it the loving, welcoming place for all the family and friends to gather. She kept up on current events. She read her newspaper every day and made sure to watch The World News with Lester Holt at 5:30 and the local news at 5:00 or 6:00. She kept the "Wheel" turning and kept up on "Days". She predicted the weather fairly well and although her formal education was short, she held self-taught degrees in Home Economics, Civics, Nursing, Psychology, Geography, Finance, and held a Master's Degree in LOVE! A life well lived.

She is survived by her children Sharon K. (Douglas) Nielsen, Tuscola, IL, Carol A. (Donald) Hansen, Storm Lake, IA, Stanley H. (Jean) Graves, Daleville, AL, and Richard (Mary) Graves, Storm Lake, IA, her grandchildren

John (Sabrina) Graves, Leavenworth, KS, Jeremy (Trisha) Hansen, Newell, IA, Stephanie (John) Hudson, Sadorus, IL, S. Eric (Shelly) Graves, Little Elm, TX, Ryan (Aida) Graves, Madison, AL, Peter (Jennifer) Nielsen, Milton, GA, Anthony (Rob) Hempstock-Graves, Phoenix, AZ, Heidi (Rodney) Hansen-Bramble, Storm Lake, IA, Amy (Charles) McCarthy, Harvest, AL, Lisa (Chris) Cook, Clarksville, TN, Lori (Ryan) Russell, Cedar Rapids, IA, twenty-two Great Grandchildren, and fourteen Great-Great Grandchildren, her sisters Lottie Nelson (Jim Wilson), Storm Lake, IA, Bonnie (Glen) Holland, Pocahontas, IA, many nieces and nephews and their families, Special family friend Caroline Crank, WI, special furry friend Scout Patton and many other friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Harlow, father in law Johnny Graves, son David, sister and brother in law Marcella (Hank) Chamberlain, brothers and sisters in law Lyle (Veva) Hughes, Donald "Mike" (Margaret) Hughes, Clyde (Vera) Hughes, Glen (Genevieve) Hughes, Calvin (Esther) Hughes, Carl "Bucky" (Gladys) Hughes, sister in law Marie Hughes, infant twin Great Granddaughters Ashley Jordan and Peyton Amber Nielsen, infant Great-Great Granddaughter Maya Ann Mann.

Cemetery Details

Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake
211 East 3rd Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Memorial Service

NOV 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake
211 East 3rd Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

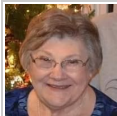
Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 18, 2021 at 01:05 PM



*A Wonderful tribute to Mom ! All of the memories are captured and my heart is overflowing with the love that will always be there for my wonderful mother and all of our family. May God bless us all for the love and guidance she gave to us during her 99 years.
Rest in Peace Mom, Love always, Sharon*

Sharon Nielsen - November 20, 2021 at 03:26 PM

DM

*I'm so glad to see this here! It was difficult to catch all of them on the church wall at the beautiful service for Aunt Dot! Love her so much!!
Deb*

Deb Mefferd - November 24, 2021 at 10:19 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ila "Dot" Graves.*



November 18, 2021 at 09:53 PM



“ 188 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 18, 2021 at 12:58 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen - November 18, 2021 at 12:57 PM



“ Terry and Mary Lynnelle Hughes purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ila "Dot" Graves.



Terry and Mary Lynnelle Hughes - November 16, 2021 at 01:49 PM

GF

“ Glen Hughes family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ila "Dot" Graves.



Glen Hughes family - November 11, 2021 at 04:59 PM

CW

“ Chris Willfong lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves



Chris willfong - November 11, 2021 at 04:17 PM

CB

“ Cathy Bueb lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves



Cathy Bueb - November 11, 2021 at 12:03 PM

TF

“ Toohey Family lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves



Toohey Family - November 09, 2021 at 01:24 PM

DM

“ *Friend for many yrs Dirx & Meyer Family*



Diane Meyer - November 08, 2021 at 08:52 AM

MM

“ *So glad I got to meet this sweet lady she will be greatly missed by many.*



Michelle Mason - November 06, 2021 at 10:16 PM

BR

“ *Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves*



Bev Reis - November 05, 2021 at 09:51 PM

TD

“ *The Storm Lake United Methodist Women and the Friday Lunch Ladies send their heartfelt sympathy and Christian love to Dot's family. We all will miss her.*

Terry Davenport - November 05, 2021 at 07:24 PM



“ *Shades of Purple* was purchased for the family of Ila "Dot" Graves.



November 05, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ *Mark/Chris Young lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves*



Mark/Chris Young - November 04, 2021 at 09:50 PM



“ *Jennifer Peters lit a candle in memory of Ila "Dot" Graves*



Jennifer Peters - November 04, 2021 at 09:46 PM