



Marlys Mae Ewoldt

January 4, 1929 - August 20, 2018

Marlys Ewoldt, age 89, of Alta, Iowa died on Monday, August 20, 2018 at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Hanover, Iowa. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will take place Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in ALTA. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Alta is in charge of the arrangements.

Marlys Ewoldt was born on January 4, 1929. Her parents were Lester and Frieda (Huseman) Kolpin. Her father was a farmer and her mother a housewife. Marlys lived most of her life on her family's Century farm.

She attended St. John Lutheran parochial school where she was also confirmed. Confirmation studies at the time required her to memorize 19 hymns and 20 Psalms. Marlys recited "Just as I Am" for her confirmation.

After graduation from Alta High School, she went to Drake University. She lived in a basement apartment in Des Moines and worked as a waitress to help with expenses. Her roommate was a stranger (Gig) from Chicago who asked Marlys "What is this God thing?" Mom brought her to church and they stayed in touch over the years. Marlys graduated from Drake with a two year

teaching certificate.

In 1948, Marlys began teaching in the country outside of Storm Lake at the Hayes School. She taught there for two years. During her second year she had to ask the school board for permission to marry. On November 20, 1949 she married Wendell Ewoldt at St. John's in an all pink wedding ceremony, followed by a 3 course sit down dinner for 200 people at the Alta Legion Hall. Following the wedding, Wendell and Marlys lived in the Hayes teacherage for a year.

In 1950, Marlys resigned her teaching position. At that time, you were not allowed to have a child and be a teacher. Her first child, Mary Jane, was born February 16, 1951 and on December 27, 1952 her second daughter, Carol Lea, was born. In 1956, during a drought and \$12/ hundred weights price for hogs, Marlys took a temporary ½ year teaching job in Schaller that turned into much more. Marlys taught several grades but loved teaching 4th graders the best. She called it a "teacher's paradise." After seven years of teaching, Marlys felt her family needed her at home. She was home for one year when the superintendent of Schaller called and asked her to come back. Her family convinced her to go.

Marlys continued to teach for twenty-two years. During that time, she raised her family and took night school and summer courses to graduate from Buena Vista College in 1969 with her Bachelor's degree. With both of her girls out of college she decided it was time to retire. She wanted to leave teaching on a high note and spend more time with her husband, taking memorable trips to Canada, Hawaii, California and many bus trips. Retirement also allowed her to do a little tractor driving, tutor children, teach Thursday church school, learn the game of golf, play bridge and become acquainted with computers. She used her computer daily, emailing her daughters to update them on her plans and activities.

In 1998, Marlys and Wendell moved to Alta and the home her parents had built in 1951. Marlys affected the lives of her family and hundreds of students. It was hard for her to go anywhere that she did not encounter a former student anxious to greet "Mrs. Ewoldt" and let her know she was their favorite teacher. She felt God gave her a gift. She never stopped being a teacher.

She will be forever remembered and held in their hearts by her husband, Wendell Ewoldt; daughters: Mary Jane (Gail) Gebers; Carol Lea (Kevin) Melsha; grandchildren: Dr. Alex (Jann) Murphy, Dr. Kyle (Jen) Murphy, BJ (Lisa) Melsha, Kailyn Melsha; step grandchildren: Scott (Rena) Gebers, Chad (Shannon) Gebers; great-grandchildren: Carly Murphy, Chloe Murphy, Keegan Murphy and Brynley Murphy; step great-grandchildren: Ryleigh Gebers, Dane Gebers, Will Gebers, Drew Gebers, Hannah Gebers, and Sydney Gebers.

Cemetery Details

St. John Lutheran Cemetery - Hanover

Hanover, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Alta
301 Alta Vista Street
Alta, IA 51002
(712) 284-2141
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Service

AUG **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church -- Hanover
169 630th St.
Alta, IA 51002

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marlys Mae Ewoldt*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 22, 2018 at 01:13 PM

DP

To Mrs. Ewoldt family;

She was a favorite teacher f mine at Schaller. She was understanding and very kind to me at a time when I needed that. I have always remembered the genuine concern she had for me and her compassion all her students. Mrs. Ewoldt made a difference in my life for which I'm truly grateful.

Dennis Pfrimmer - August 22, 2018 at 09:16 PM

DD

“ *Although we did not know her and reading the tributes and knowing her family, she had to be a gem. Our sincere sympathy. Harold and Diane Droegmiller*

diane droegmiller - August 23, 2018 at 03:34 PM

KB

“ Mrs Ewoldt was my 4th grade teacher. Schaller High School. I can honestly say she was my all time favorite. THEN 20 years later I discovered she was a huge ISU fan sitting at the Football games a few rows behind us. I will remember her warm smile and always always happy attitude. Lee and I just saw her at the Depot Restaurant in Alta about a month ago...and YES, she remembered us!!! Heaven received a beautiful soul.
Kay Boisen, Des Moines

K Boisen - August 22, 2018 at 10:50 PM

SS

“ I also had Mrs. Ewoldt as one of my grade school teachers. She was one of my favorites! What really amazed me is that I have seen her many times throughout the 30 years since I have moved away from the area and she remembered me by name every single time. She touched many lives and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Sandra Stille - August 22, 2018 at 08:07 PM

KB

“ So many special memories of doing Maryls's hair for a number of years and being a member of St. John church!! Such a kind lady and always happy!! May God's arms hold you during this time of sadness for you!!

Karen Hinkeldey Buchholz

Karen Buchholz - August 22, 2018 at 07:45 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement was purchased for the family of Marlys Mae Ewoldt.*



August 22, 2018 at 05:41 PM

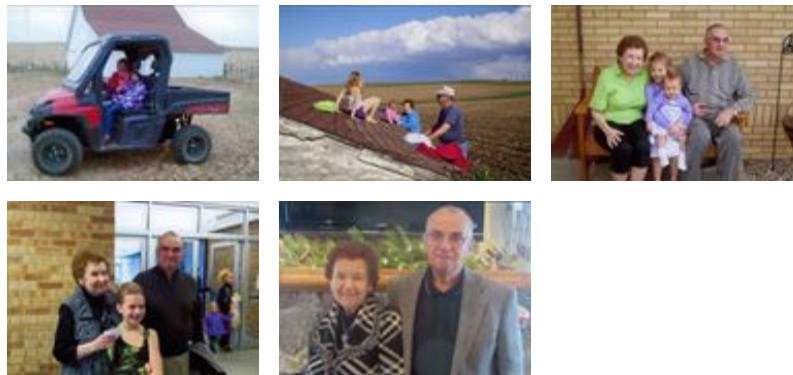


“ *I'm so sorry for the family's loss. She was my teacher at Schaller and thought of her often over the years. She was the best teacher I ever had. She will be missed. Diane Rasmussen Fuller*

Diane Fuller - August 22, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ *191 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 22, 2018 at 12:05 PM



“ *What a gift Mrs. Ewoldt was to so many! So grateful i was in her classroom. She is a special lady who I know will be missed deeply.*

Deb Ayers - August 22, 2018 at 10:42 AM

AO

“ Amber Svajgl / Mutual of Omaha purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Marlys Mae Ewoldt.



Amber Svajgl / Mutual of Omaha - August 22, 2018 at 10:33 AM

GF

“ Gary & Jaci Marks and Tim Marks & Amy Frederick purchased the Healing Tears - All Pink for the family of Marlys Mae Ewoldt.



Gary & Jaci Marks and Tim Marks & Amy Frederick - August 22, 2018 at 10:32 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 22, 2018 at 10:20 AM

JP

“ Like so many others, Mrs. Ewoldt was my favorite teacher as well. So kind and loving to us all. I think of her often and I hear her voice in my head whenever I spell Mississippi- M I salt salt, I salt salt, I pepper pepper, !! What a treasure she was.

Jenny (Claussen) Parr - August 22, 2018 at 05:18 AM

LG

“ I will never forget this wonderful person..she truly was my favorite teacher and did so much for my education...she will be missed...may she REST IN peace....GOD BLESS

Lovee GIANNANGELI - August 21, 2018 at 08:38 PM



“ Mrs. Ewoldt was my favorite teacher. She was a kind and caring woman. I'm sure all of us from the SHS class of 1969 would agree. She was a woman of faith and a cared for her students as much as she did her own family. May she rest in peace.

Lynn Bode Wittmeier - August 21, 2018 at 08:05 PM

SH

“ Steven Harnack lit a candle in memory of Marlys Mae Ewoldt



Steven Harnack - August 21, 2018 at 07:12 PM

RT

“ Some of the members of the class of 1980 gathered on Friday to remember our classmate Tammy and we shared memories of Mrs Ewoldt. Over the years, my siblings and I were always glad to see her at breakfast in Storm Lake on Sunday mornings. She was my favorite teacher, of course!

Renae Tokheim - August 21, 2018 at 06:57 PM

MC

*"Mrs. Ewoldt" was my fourth grade teacher. She was so very nice and we had a lot of fun in her class. I dont recall anyone getting into any trouble that year. I think thats because she treated us all as special people. She always drove past our farm on her way to and from Schaller. She always waived and whenever I saw her after I was out of school she always knew who I was.
RIP Mrs Ewoldt*

Mark Currie - August 21, 2018 at 07:02 PM

TC

“ sorry to hear of her oassing. she was my 4th grade teacher, she had such a wonderful personality for a teacher.

tresa cerny - August 21, 2018 at 06:04 PM

MF

“ Mary Farrell lit a candle in memory of Marlys Mae Ewoldt



Mary Farrell - August 21, 2018 at 05:20 PM

CG

“ We will miss you Mrs. Ewoldt, I was very lucky to get to see you when you came into the Specialty Clinic from time to time. I was always amazed at how you remembered all of the Schaller kids from way back. One of the greatest teachers! Carol Grundmeier



Carol Grundmeier - August 21, 2018 at 04:58 PM

DR

“ *The world has lost a wonderful teacher, a very lovely lady and special friend. She was my all time favorite teacher, so helpful and kind. Rest in peace "Mrs. Ewoldt", you earned it and deserve it. God Bless You.*

Darlene Raveling - August 21, 2018 at 04:02 PM

SO


The world needs more of Mrs. Ewoldt... she was kind, supportive and always had a smile. Fly Mrs. Ewoldt fly!

Shari O'Bannon - August 21, 2018 at 05:35 PM

KB

“ *Mrs. Ewoldt was such a great teacher. My 4th grade class at Schaller was her last class. I remember the smile and laughter. Such a caring person. Heaven has gained a special person.*

Kurt Blum - August 21, 2018 at 03:44 PM

 Ryan Buell

“ *Rest in Peace Mrs Ewoldt! You were a Great Teacher and a wonderful person! Thank you for all you did for hundreds of kids at Schaller.*

Ryan Buell - August 21, 2018 at 03:00 PM

PS

“ *Mrs. Ewoldt was my 4th grade teacher at Schaller school. That would have been about 1969. She was be far my favorite teacher. Id see her off and on in the community and she never forgot who I was - always called me by name. I had just seen her a year or so ago and had a nice visit. I'm saddened to hear of her passing. Patti Willer Snyder*

Patti Snyder - August 21, 2018 at 02:35 PM

DB

“ Mrs. Ewolt, I'll always remember attending your class. You were the best teacher! I remember you being very kind and also firm. You also prepared me for Mrs. Watson (5th) and Mrs. Alderson (6th), who were definitely firm... Mrs. A - a little too firm. Thank you for being my teacher and helping me learn both book and life lessons.



Debi (Currie) Bell - August 21, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ I was a student of hers at Schaller She was by far my favorite teacher To this day I talk about her as the teacher that made a difference for me My deepest condolences to her family

Janet Illum - August 21, 2018 at 01:15 PM

JC

“ Mrs Ewoldt, You have a wonderful laugh and a kind heart. Your hugs were a cure for everything. Thank you for being such a great teacher and influence to so many.

A grateful student,
Jill Currie Cradic

Jill Cradic - August 21, 2018 at 01:02 PM

TJ

“ Best teacher ever! She will be remembered fondly by hundreds of Schaller students.

Tracey (VanBuskirk) Jepsen - August 21, 2018 at 12:59 PM

MG

“ Maurice & Jacque Grotjohn purchased the Cherished Memories - All White for the family of Marlys Mae Ewoldt.



Maurice & Jacque Grotjohn - August 21, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Marlys was a dynamic, bright woman who will be missed by many. Embrace all your happy memories to comfort you now.
Jerry and Linda (Peters) McShane



Linda McShane - August 21, 2018 at 11:19 AM

MG

“ Three days after Mrs. Ewoldt was married, I was born, which gave me the opportunity to be a student in her 1959-1960 4th grade class at Schaller. I told her more than once she was my favorite teacher - for some reason (Mrs. Ewoldt!), 4th grade was where things began to "click" for me, and I realized the importance of what I was being taught. Living in Oklahoma, I didn't get to see her much - but I did call her two years ago to again thank her - she was able to tell me exactly where I sat in her class - third row back, by the window - how could she remember that?! Few students are fortunate enough to have a teacher like Mrs. Ewoldt - I'm one that was.
Maurice Grotjohn

Maurice Grotjohn - August 21, 2018 at 10:29 AM



“ *Lexi Catherine lit a candle in memory of
Marlys Mae Ewoldt* ”



Lexi Catherine - August 20, 2018 at 08:10 PM