



Mary A. Kestel

January 3, 1929 - November 1, 2017

Mary Alice (Smith) Kestel, 88, of Storm Lake passed away peacefully surrounded by family on November 1, 2017 at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will follow in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will take place Monday, November 6, 2017 from 5-7:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. followed by a rosary all at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

She was born on January 3, 1929 in Peoria, Illinois, the youngest daughter of Frank Donald Smith and Madelyne (Grable). Mary had fond memories of Peoria where her family was prominent in business and the community, co-owning Clark-Smith Wholesale Hardware Company. In 1940, she moved with her family to Storm Lake. Mary described a childhood of playing backyard games with neighbor kids and staying busy with many school activities. Her high school year book listed her as 'dark and striking' and 'always loads of fun'.

Following graduation, Mary was a bank teller at Security National Bank. It was while searching for watermelons with girlfriends on the Kestel farm that this

Storm Lake high school homecoming queen, with that twinkle in her blue eyes and adventure in her heart, met Bill Kestel. They were married on January 5, 1953 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Following their wedding they moved to Reno, NV where Bill was stationed at Stead Air Force Base. After Bill's discharge, they returned to Storm Lake where they went on to raise their four daughters, Colette, Alice, Libby and Ann.

Not one to be idle, Mary was always active in her church and community. She presided over the boards of St. Mary's School, Storm Lake YMCA, BV Community Theatre (where she also starred onstage), St. Mary's Guild and the Hospital Auxillary. She was also active in the Catholic Daughters of America, the Sioux City Diocesan School Board and was part of numerous other projects and activities. She believed in the right to vote and spent years as a precinct volunteer.

Once the kids were all in school, Mary worked 17 years at Nomad Travel Agency. Mary and Bill enjoyed trips from Alaska to Hawaii as well as cruises to European and Caribbean locations. She could also often be found playing golf or at the swimming pool, but Mary's favorite activity was attending ball games. She was always the fiercest advocate and loudest fan of any team involving a daughter or grandchild.

A recent remark to describe Mary summed it up well; where ever Mary went "she always caused a lot of fun."

Those left to cherish her memory are, Bill, devoted husband of 64 yrs,; son-in-law, Tom King, Urbandale; children, Brian (Erin) King, Nantucket, MA, David King, Newport Beach, CA, Aaron (Kelli) King, West Des Moines, Sarah (Reggie) Voyles, Sac City, Lisa King, Ankeny; daughter Alice Graves, children Peter (Maggie) Graves, and Eric Graves, all of Ventura, CA; Libby Kestel, Iowa City, Ann (Mark) Meyer; children Matt, Makenzie, Megan and Macy of

Mason City; sister and best friend, Dorothy (Teenie) Smith, Storm Lake; niece, Nettie Renshaw, Algona; great-grandchildren; Sydney, Kinnick and Charlie King; William and Landon Voyles.

Preceding Mary in death were her parents; brother, Frank Donald Smith; daughter, Colette King; and granddaughter, Laura King.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

Vigil Service

NOV 6. 7:00 PM (CT)

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1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
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Rosary

NOV 6. 7:15 PM (CT)

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Funeral Mass

NOV 7. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary A. Kestel*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 06, 2017 at 11:37 AM

RR

“ *IN FOND MEMORIES OF MARY. THOSE BLUE EYES, HER CONTAGIOUS SMILE AND HER GET HER DONE ATTITUDE HAS ALWAYS HELD A PLACE IN MY HEART. I KNOW COLETTE WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE HER MOM NEAR. BOTH WONDERFUL WOMEN.*



RONDA SITZMANN ROBY - November 07, 2017 at 08:13 PM

CS

“ *What a beautiful lady!! And so very kind and welcoming when we moved to Storm Lake in the 80's and knew no one there. Thank you Mary, you will rest in eternal peace!
With sincere sympathy to your family of loved ones,
Steve & Cheryl Schoof*

Cheryl Schoof - November 07, 2017 at 10:52 AM

TH

“ Tracey Sudbay Hash lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Tracey Sudbay Hash - November 06, 2017 at 07:44 PM

TH

“ My sincere condolences to all of the Kestel family. I have so many fond memories of all of you growing up! Mary was such a great "mom" to all of us who knew her. She was such a champ in all of the sports we all played, cheering us all on with such enthusiasm! The many times we played at the farm were so special, as she put up with all of us hanging out there!! Libby, remember "burnt cheese" we used to do in your kitchen?! Lol!! Your mom never complained about us "burning cheese" purposely in the kitchen to eat!!! I am forever grateful I got to see your mom last year and sit with her and Teenie for a bit. I didn't want to leave. I had tears in my eyes when I did. She was definitely a special lady! I am so sorry for your loss, but I know Mary is cheering loudly in Heaven for all of you in your lives!!! My biggest hugs and love go out to all of you!!!

Tracey Sudbay Hash - November 06, 2017 at 07:44 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Funeral Home - November 06, 2017 at 05:28 PM

KG

“ I am so sorry for all of your losses. I spent lots of time with Ann on the farm growing up and Mary "Mrs. Kestel" treated me like one of her own. Please know all of you are in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.

Kim (Kruse) Gaubatz

Kim (Kruse) Gaubatz - November 06, 2017 at 03:54 PM

TS

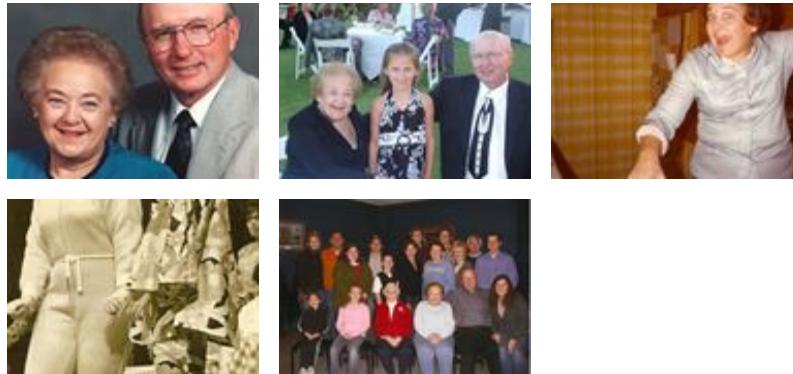
“ Tracy Stuhr purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



Tracy Stuhr - November 06, 2017 at 12:01 PM



“ 143 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 06, 2017 at 10:12 AM

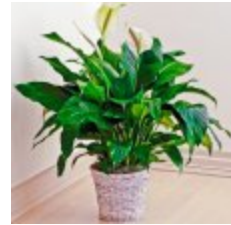
JA

“ Our condolences to Mary's family. The Class of 47 will remember her. She with her vibrant personality always played a big role in our class reunions. A builder of Storm Lake, Iowa
Jack and Deb Anderson

Jack Anderson - November 06, 2017 at 10:06 AM

VC

“ Val, Mary, and Anne (the Gated Community) purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



Val, Mary, and Anne (the Gated Community) - November 06, 2017 at 08:20 AM

WT

“ Our sympathy goes out to Bill and the family. May God give you strength during this trying time.



Wilbur & Karen Triplett - November 05, 2017 at 05:48 PM

VM

“ Vicky Marquardt purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



Vicky Marquardt - November 05, 2017 at 04:53 PM

RM

“ Rod, Nancy, Kyle, Leslie, Noah, Jenni & Mike purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – White for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



Rod, Nancy, Kyle, Leslie, Noah, Jenni & Mike - November 05, 2017 at 04:15 PM



“ Sally Rassler lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Sally Rassler - November 04, 2017 at 09:11 PM

NS

“ My condolences to all the Kestel family! I have to share that 50 years ago Mary found me walking in the ditch out towards Frank Starr Park and picked me up! I was about 6 or so, and I had walked out of the neighbors house from the back door and started walking the wrong way home!!!! Ever since then the Kestel's and the Sudbay's were great friends!



Nancy Sudbay Sahr - November 04, 2017 at 07:23 PM

W(

“ With love, Mark, Karen and Laura (Kestel) purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



With love, Mark, Karen and Laura (Kestel) - November 04, 2017 at 07:19 PM

BM

“ My thoughts and prayers to Bill and Family from an old friend across the miles. I have wonderful memories of good times shared. The cliché "Life of the Party" best captures the essence of Mary. She was so energetic and fun-loving that was contagious in her presence. Her time on Earth was devoted to a wholesome family and active member of her Church and Community. Teenie, the two of you had one of the truly remarkable sister-bonds that I have ever had the pleasure of observing. You have been the consummate Aunt to your Nieces. May God Bless Your Family. All the wonderful memories will transcend the sadness that you feel. May Mary RIP. Her time on Earth was a memorable one. Love from an old friend, Bonnie Mester

BONNIE MESTER - November 04, 2017 at 01:38 PM

SR

“ Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Sandy Robinson - November 03, 2017 at 03:41 PM

AE

“ Anne Kathryn Ellis lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Anne Kathryn Ellis - November 03, 2017 at 11:54 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary A. Kestel.



November 03, 2017 at 09:38 AM

JC

“ Jeff And Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Jeff and Jean Chindlund - November 02, 2017 at 06:39 PM

TC

“ Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - November 02, 2017 at 06:03 PM

MA

“ Sending prayers for peace and God's Grace for Bill and family. Mary holds a dear place in my memories of growing up with the Kestel family. Mary Beth Andrews

Mary Beth Andrews - November 02, 2017 at 03:12 PM

JD

“ John And Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel



John and Connie Demers - November 02, 2017 at 01:47 PM

JD

Our sympathy to Bill and the family. Mary was a sweet lady and enjoyed working with her when she worked at Nomad Travel.

John and Connie Demers - November 02, 2017 at 01:49 PM

LH

“ Dear Kestels-you have my sincerest sympathy in the loss of your dear, sweet mother. She made me feel right at home when I taught band at St. Mary's in Storm Lake and our friendship lasted many years. We drank lots of coffee after church and laughed often. She loved her family and her faith. Peace be with you at this sad time.



Laura (Hahn) Hanna - November 02, 2017 at 01:01 PM

JM

“ Mary will be missed by many. Love to all the family. Blessing!

janice meyer - November 02, 2017 at 12:31 PM

DM

“ *Dave & Deb Merten lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel*



Dave & Deb Merten - November 02, 2017 at 10:04 AM

HH

“ *Heidi Howard lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Kestel*



Heidi Howard - November 02, 2017 at 08:23 AM

MW

“ *So sorry to hear about Mary. What a special person who loved watching our softball games at BV and helping the umpire call balls and strikes! One umpire even gave her a clicker so she could keep better track. She liked sitting right behind home plate for a better view and to make she the umpire made the right call. Her famous chatter of "batter, batter," could always be heard amongst the crowd. Her easy smile and love for her children, grandchildren, and of course Bill, will always stand out in my mind. She was quick to point out their many accomplishments with such pride. Mary was a "one of a kind" special individual who brought many special moments to my life. Thinking of all of the family at this difficult time with thought and prayers. Love to you all, Marge Willadsen*

Marge Willadsen - November 02, 2017 at 01:01 AM

SM

“ My memories of Mary will always be of her sitting behind home plate at all our BV softball games and cheering us on. Such a special person and special family. Prayers to all of Mary’s family.
Love Susan Mingus

Susan Mingus - November 01, 2017 at 09:02 PM

JP

“ Mary was the biggest fan of our BV softball teams. She always had a smile on her face and had the best laugh. This picture was taken in 1984 at Nationals. Libby, Bill, Alice, Ann - you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers.



Jill Petsel - November 01, 2017 at 08:35 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND, MARY. OUR MOST HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO BILL, TEENIE & ALL THE FAMILY. THINK WE ALL KNOW SHE IS IN A MUCH BETTER PLACE, AND TO HAPPEN ON ALL SAINTS DAY. SHE NOW IS WITH JESUS, THE SAINTS & ANGELS.



LOVE & PRAYERS,
LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

PATTY GUNVILLE - November 01, 2017 at 07:51 PM

DM

“ *To Our Friend Bill & Teny & Family, Sorry to hear about Mary
God Bless All of you! She had a great Life!
Russ & Diane Meyer*



diane meyer - November 01, 2017 at 07:50 PM