



## Mary Kay Zinn

January 29, 1926 - February 20, 2025

Mary Kay Zinn, age 99, of Spencer, Iowa died February 20, 2025 at Accura Healthcare of Spirit Lake.

Visitation will take place Sunday, February 23, 2025 from 4-7:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church in Spencer, Iowa. Private Graveside services will be held in the Riverside Cemetery in Spencer. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Mary Kathryn Zinn, the only daughter of William and Ethel (Berner) Burne, was born January 29, 1926 at her parents' farm home south of Spencer, Iowa. She received her early education in the rural Sioux Township Schools and graduated from Spencer High School in 1943.

Following graduation from high school, Mary Kay began working at the Clay County Treasurer's Office. She held this position until her marriage to Elmer Zinn, who was the Chief Deputy with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. At that time, the county's policy was that two people could not work for the county if they were married. They were married on May 15, 1946 at the First Congregational Church in Spencer. To this union was born three sons: Robert, William, and John.

In order for her to be home with her sons and prior to their beginning Kindergarten, Mary Kay baked and decorated birthday cakes, wedding and anniversary cakes. She also gave cake decorating lessons.

After her children were in school, Mary Kay began working as the secretary of the First Congregational Church. She continued working for over 31 years, retiring in 1990. She began working at the Clay County Fair as a ticket seller at the main gate, something she looked forward to each year. When her eyesight and hearing started to fail, she took tickets and was a hand stamper. Mary Kay enjoyed seeing all her friends at the main gate for over 30 years.

Mary Kay loved to cook and bake and was known for her “Zinn Baked Beans”. She read cookbooks like most people read novels. During her lifetime she answered to many names including Mary Kathryn, Mary Kay, Mary, Mickey, Mick, and Mrs. Zinn. But the names nearest to her heart were Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma.

Mary Kay was not a traveler. She always commented after short or long trips that the best part was seeing her “own back door”. Mary Kay was a long-time member of the First Congregational Church where she was very active in the Women’s Fellowship, having served faithfully as its president and worked diligently in the church circle. She was a life-time member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, a member of Eta Master Chapter.

Mary Kay passed away at Accura Healthcare in Spirit Lake, Iowa on February 20, 2025 at the age of 99 years young. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer, on November 2, 2005, her parents, two brothers, Robert (Mabel) Burne and Roger (Elva) Burne, son, Robert and his wife Linda (Reason) Zinn, daughter-in-law, Sherry Zinn, and nephew, Tom Burne.

Mary Kay is survived by her sons: Bill Zinn of Spencer, Iowa; John (Diane) Zinn of Spencer, Iowa; six grandchildren: Jeremy (Amanda) Zinn, Joshua (Laura) Zinn all of Ankeny, Iowa; Aaron (Kylee) Zinn, Trish (Jeremiah) Quist all of Spencer, Iowa; Andrew (Brooke) Zinn of Storm Lake, Iowa; Hanna Zinn of Hopkins, Minnesota; step-grandson: Andrew Quist of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; daughter-in-law: Linda (Jeff) Thiesen of Milford, Iowa; seven great-grandchildren: Zachary Zinn, Preston Zinn, Kyra Zinn, and Colby Zinn of Ankeny, Iowa; A.J. Zinn, Tate Zinn, and Madison Quist of Spencer, Iowa; Hazel Ann Zinn of Storm Lake, Iowa; niece: Mariah Burne of San Francisco, California; and many friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

Spencer, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 23. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Congregational Church -- Spencer  
1212 1st Ave W  
Spencer, IA 51301

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ *Bill & John I am so sorry for your loss! I just found out about Mary Kays passing, she was like a second mother to me as I grew up in south Spencer. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this trying time.*



Tom Rhodes - February 26, 2025 at 12:24 PM

S1

“ *Spencer's class of 1970 would all like to express their deepest sympathy to Bill Zinn . Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.*



Spencer Class of 1970 - February 23, 2025 at 02:12 PM

BC

“ *Mom Zinn. Like a second mother to me. Lots of memories and all good ones. Heaven is getting one of the very best. Condolences to all the family. Be strong Bill and John. The Zinn's are the Cooks second family. Love you guys.*



Bill Cook - February 22, 2025 at 10:01 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 22, 2025 at 06:24 PM



“ *Bill & John, My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mary Kay was exceptional. Damon Zinn.*

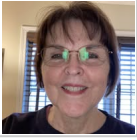
Damon Zinn - February 22, 2025 at 06:11 PM

KC

“ I will always treasure my memories of Mary Kay. We were neighbors and enjoyed the company of each other. My sympathies to you all. 🙏🙏🙏



Karen Conlon - February 22, 2025 at 12:31 PM



“ Kathleen Carlson lit a candle in memory of Mary Zinn



Kathleen Carlson - February 22, 2025 at 10:20 AM

DH

“ Dale and Laura Hanna lit a candle in memory of Mary Zinn



Dale and Laura Hanna - February 21, 2025 at 03:55 PM

SM

“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Steve and Barb Meyer - February 21, 2025 at 01:48 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Kay Zinn.



February 21, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Kay Zinn.

---

February 21, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Kay Zinn.



---

February 21, 2025 at 12:27 PM