



Monica M. Smith

May 4, 1928 - August 23, 2024

Monica Marie (Marley) Smith, age 96, of Storm Lake, IA, died peacefully on Friday, August 23, 2024 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community after living a long, full life.

Funeral Mass will take place Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Early, Iowa. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held Monday, August 26, 2024 from 4:45-7:00 p.m. with Rosary at 4:45 p.m. and Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. all at the CHURCH in Early. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Monica was born on May 4, 1928, daughter of Dominic Stephen and Anna Inez (Torticill) Marley of Blencoe, IA.

A farm girl at heart, she was the 6th of 10 children. She loved her family and her siblings, visiting them frequently even just before she died. She attended a one room country schoolhouse in Sherman Township #2 and St. Joseph High School in Salix graduating in 1945. After high school, she graduated in 1950 with a degree in Education from Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, IA.

While teaching high school Home Economics at Early High School in Early, IA (1950-1952), she met the love of her life Joseph Henry Smith where he was

attending night school. She would always smirk when telling stories of how ornery he was. Monica and Joe were married on July 16, 1952 . They made their home on a farm West of Nemaha where they raised 7 beautiful children. Together, Monica and Joe dedicated their lives to their family and farm. After 35 beautiful years of marriage, Joe died far too young on June 30, 1988 during a tragic asthma flare. Although Monica missed growing old with him, she lived a full life despite being widowed at such a young age.

Throughout her life, Monica remained an active mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, church and community volunteer. She was a dear and dependable friend to everyone lucky enough to befriend her. She treasured her time socializing, whether it be bridge club, church guild, water aerobics or morning coffee and donuts. She was always giving back to the community whether it be years volunteering at Sacred Heart School, clipping soup labels and box tops for the “Box Tops for Education” for St. Mary’s School and working at BVRMC coffee shop which she loved. She was so sharp that even on her deathbed she remembered everyone’s name, details of their lineage and important dates better than anyone else we know.

Monie, Grandma or “Grandma Joe” to her crew of 60, was the best. She knitted Christmas stockings for everyone (including everyone’s spouse and great-grandkids), never sent a birthday card late, and always made the best strawberry salad and caramel pecan rolls, chocolate surprise cookies, homemade strawberry jam. She also loved Page’s donut holes and was known to stash them when certain relatives or grandchildren came to visit. She loved all of us with her whole being and recently declared “no one ever told me it would be this grand to talk to your grandchildren as adults.” She was so proud of each one of them. She will be so missed, but left such a legacy we hope to carry on her spirit of service to others and our community.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Dennis (Sandra) of Parker, CO;

Jeff (Martha) of Storm Lake, IA; Christi Smith-Pauley of Omaha, NE; Doug (Cheryl) of Omaha, NE; David (Kris) of Omaha, NE and Shawn (Lesia) of West Des Moines, IA; grandchildren: Kylie (Thomas) Hall, Kendra Smith, Kristin (Dave) Jessen, Padget (Erick) Skogman, Bridget (Sam) Morehead, Colleen (Ben) Talaska, Brendan (Bri) Smith, Dillan (Maggie) Smith, Josie (Josh Townsend), Cole and Kyle Pauley, Haley (Brock) Mason, Hannah and Ryan Smith, Jackson and Brady Smith, Noah and Kara Smith as well as 21 great grandchildren with one on the way. Brothers: Stephen (Audrey) Marley; Jerry (Marge) Marley; sister, Nan Nalty; and many nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law: Anne Reisch, Marilyn Hall and Joyce Smith.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Smith; oldest daughter, Cheryl Anne "Cheri" Smith; parents, Dominic and Inez Marley; and in-laws, Henry and Marie Smith; brothers: Edward and John (Bobbie) Marley; sisters: Agnes (Dave) Craford, Kay (Paul) Quinlan, Jean (Bruno) Pannuto, Pauline (Walt) Lamoureux; brother-in-law, Pat Nalty. Joe's siblings: Cecil, Ed (Pat), Bill (Marvel and Luella), Eileen (Bob) Martin, Frank (Joan), Don Reisch, Stan Hall and Fr James Smith.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery -- Early, Iowa

Church St.
Early, IA 50535

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 26. 4:45 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Visitation

AUG 26. 4:45 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Vigil Service

AUG 26. 7:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Funeral Mass

AUG 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church --Early, Iowa
501 Church Street
Early, IA 50535
<http://www.nemahaweb.com/sacredheart/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Monica M. Smith*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 26, 2024 at 05:39 PM

SM

“ *Monica had a neat way of keeping in touch. With years of babysitting with their kids, to her heading up our dinner for our wedding at Sacred Heart, to her & Joe going on some trips together with Mom & Dad, to her writing to us when we were in Korea, to sharing Christmas greetings with each other over the years, she has been a lively, special friend, neighbor and all around good person. We will miss her and to her family-she'll be your treasure in heaven!*

Sue & Larry Menke - September 06, 2024 at 03:52 PM

DH

“ *We were friends of Fr. James Smith and his family was so important to him. He loved you all. Please accept our sympathies at this sad time and in the days ahead. Peace to you.*

Dale and Laura Hanna - August 27, 2024 at 12:32 PM

PC

“ May God welcome Monica into the gates of heaven in the presence of our Blessed Mother and may he give your family peace at this time. Pam and Lou Cerillo

Pamela Cerillo - August 26, 2024 at 02:45 PM

PC

“ Pam and Lou Cerillo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Monica M. Smith.

Pam and Lou Cerillo - August 26, 2024 at 02:36 PM

JH

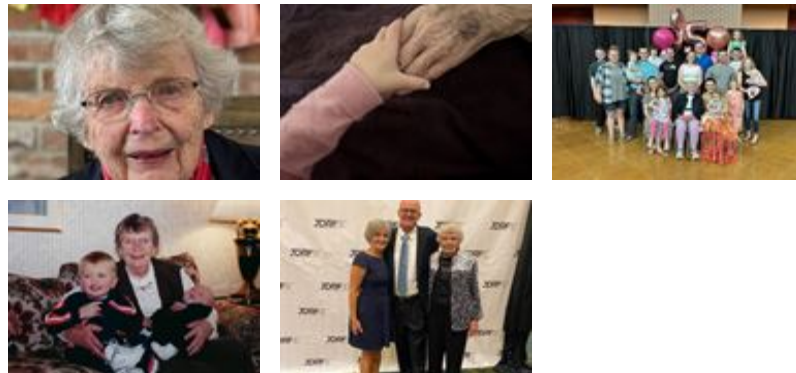
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jensen Funeral Homes - August 26, 2024 at 02:19 PM



“ 181 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 26, 2024 at 01:30 PM

LB

“ Great Lady, She has been a great neighbor for 28 yrs. Will miss seeing her come home from a coffee or some volunteer group and water her flowers. The community has lost a great lady.

Lloyd Boettcher - August 26, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Monica M. Smith.



August 26, 2024 at 10:45 AM

DJ

“ Dave & Deb Merten, Logan & Jenna lit a candle in memory of Monica Smith



Dave & Deb Merten, Logan & Jenna - August 26, 2024 at 08:53 AM

MM

“ Aunt Monie was a special connection to the Marley family history with her stories and incredible memory. My children were honored recipients of hand knitted Christmas stockings. Childhood farm visits were fun with Model T's, trampolines, and the “ Chico treatment” - what patience she had!, I very much enjoyed visiting with Aunt Monie and wish her peace.

Mary Marley - August 25, 2024 at 07:05 PM

BB

“ To Jeff and the rest of the Smith Family you have my deepest sympathy! May God bless you all and may Monica Rest in Peace.

Bob Baschke



Bob Baschke - August 25, 2024 at 04:01 PM

MM

“ Monica was a special sister-in-law to me for 67 years. She attended so many of my family funerals in the Sioux City area. She kept us informed of family news, Iowa news after we moved from the area. My husband Jerry was her little brother & we & our family loved her dearly. I will miss our lengthy phone calls. Rest in peace Monie, you deserve it! Margie

Margie. Marley - August 25, 2024 at 01:30 PM

RS

I am very sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Roger W Snook - August 29, 2024 at 04:06 PM

FF

“ From Nancy Nalty & Family purchased the Faires t of All for the family of Monica M. Smith.



From Nancy Nalty & Family - August 25, 2024 at 12:53 PM

WH

“ With love, Rich and Susie Hamilton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Monica M. Smith.

With love, Rich and Susie Hamilton - August 25, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Monica M. Smith.



August 25, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JK

“ Jeff and Lory (Preston) Krummen lit a candle in memory of Monica Smith



Jeff and Lory (Preston) Krummen - August 25, 2024 at 12:29 AM

LJ

“ Love, Dave and Teresa (Marley) Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Monica M. Smith.

Love, Dave and Teresa (Marley) Johnson - August 24, 2024 at 02:56 PM

LJ

“ Love, Dave and Teresa (Marley) Johnson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Monica M. Smith.



Love, Dave and Teresa (Marley) Johnson - August 24, 2024 at 02:56 PM

TG

“ The Pannuto Girls purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Monica M. Smith.



The Pannuto Girls - August 24, 2024 at 11:14 AM

LH

“ Our condolences to the family of Monica. She was the sweetest lady, and I have so many fond memories bowling with her for many years.



Lynette & Bill Halder - August 24, 2024 at 11:10 AM

LQ

“ Love the Dancing Queens purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Monica M. Smith.



Love the Dancing Queens - August 24, 2024 at 08:10 AM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Monica Smith*



John/Connie Demers - August 24, 2024 at 08:07 AM

FM

“ *From Gregory Marley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Monica M. Smith.*



From Gregory Marley - August 24, 2024 at 06:15 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Monica M. Smith.*



August 23, 2024 at 09:14 PM

LJ

“ *Love from Cindy, Amir, Jonah and Juliana planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Monica M. Smith.*

Love from Cindy, Amir, Jonah and Juliana - August 23, 2024 at 09:14 PM