



Norma Arlene Smith

August 28, 1929 - January 17, 2016

Norma Arlene Smith, age 86, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away Sunday, January 17, 2016 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 22, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will take place Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 5-7:00 p.m. with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. all at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Genesis Development. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Norma Arlene Johnson was born on August 28, 1929 in Storm Lake, Iowa. She was the second daughter of Arthur T. and Elva (Moline) Johnson. Growing up on a small farm near Albert City, she had a wonderful life full of extended family and 100% Swedish heritage. One of her earliest memories was a cross-country trip to California to visit relatives.

Always one to nurture and care for others, Norma decided early on she would become a teacher. She attended Buena Vista College where she received her teaching certificate in 1949. Well liked by her classmates, she was crowned Homecoming Queen. Her first teaching assignment was in Marathon, Iowa where she taught 4th grade.

A local farmer named Paul Smith from Storm Lake set his eyes on Norma one night at the Cobblestone Ballroom and asked her to dance. That night started a courtship that led them to getting married on May 31, 1950. They started their married life living on several acreages around Paul's family farm before moving into their own house in 1954. Already having three children, they filled this little house full of love with four more over the next ten years. This farm was the site of many celebrations after the arrival of "the playhouse". Always a gracious hostess, Norma loved to fill the party house with her friends and family.

After Norma's children were all in school, she went back to teaching in a different role. In 1969, in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, she started a program for several young adults. She began to teach them life skills, including cooking and how to clean the church. They made craft items that they sold at bazaars to raise money for the program. Soon the program outgrew the basement of the church and was moved to West Milwaukee St. where the "Red Barn" began, eventually becoming Genesis Development. Even though she was no longer involved at this point, Norma continued her lifelong support for people with challenges.

Continuing her career outside the home, she worked at Gooch's Best and Golden Sun feeds where she enjoyed working with the public and providing the highest level of customer service. Later, she would become a full time assistant in the Storm Lake High School working with special education students. Whenever called to substitute, the kids that would have normally given another substitute "the business" stayed in line and gave her nothing but respect.

Politics were an important part of Norma's life. She was a die-hard Democrat. She enjoyed discussing what was happening in the world and stayed up on

current events by reading the Des Moines Register and Storm Lake Times thoroughly. If the mail didn't come because of a holiday, a trip was made to town to get that day's newspaper. She also enjoyed thousands of hours of Public Television and was a "friend" for many years. She especially enjoyed Downton Abbey and will be watching the very last season in "high definition".

Norma loved spending time at Okoboji and visited there many times. She also took her parents and sister, Dorothy, on a road trip to California to visit their extended family in 1980, retracing the route from 40 years earlier. She spent an epic week at Leach Lake Minnesota fishing and a family road trip to Washington DC. There were also trips to Maine, Seattle and Alaska. These trips were great fun for her, but she also enjoyed hearing about all of her children and grandchildren's lives. Her connection to her family was the most important thing in her life.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Paul D. Smith of Storm Lake, Iowa; children: Jonathon Smith of Jefferson, Iowa; Paula (Ron) Long of Sac City, Iowa; Phil (Jane) Smith of Schleswig, Iowa; Lou (Don) Krueger of Austin, Texas; Sarah (Fred) Selinger of Urbandale, Iowa; Rob (Michelle) Smith of Storm Lake, Iowa; son-in-law, Todd Anderson of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; 16 grandchildren: 16 great grandchildren; cousins; nieces; nephews; extended family and friends.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Elva Johnson; parents-in-law, Albert and Mayme Smith; sister, Dorothy Nordlund; brother-in-law, Roland Nordlund; and daughter, Kristine Anderson.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 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>

Rosary

JAN 21. 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>

Service

JAN 22. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Jen Launderville lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith* ”



Jen Launderville - January 22, 2016 at 02:54 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 22, 2016 at 09:18 AM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Funeral Homes - January 21, 2016 at 04:08 PM

TW

“ *Last time I saw Norma she hugged me so hard I thought my mom was hugging me too.
God Bless the Smith Family. Theresa Hamilton Watkins* ”

Theresa J Watkins - January 21, 2016 at 02:53 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Norma Arlene Smith.*



January 21, 2016 at 12:56 PM



“ *God we Feltons LOVED the Smiths....pulling into their driveway with the grass and trees leading up to that house on the hill...so much to discover- the pit, the playhouse, the dirtbikes...it really didn't seem to matter- play with Rob for a while, then disguising my crush on my classmate Lou (for years and years), Sarah or Phil would play, depending on what and where...getting a little older, the playhouse was just a classic Midwest gathering place...always open, always welcomed...We'll miss you and already miss sweet Kris, and are thinking of Paul (we worked together for a while at Hygrade) and praying for all.*

Jim Felton- Denver

Jim Felton - January 21, 2016 at 11:30 AM



“ *Dear Paul, Rob, Paula and all Smith family. I send prayers for all of you during this time. I loved talking with Norma and always enjoyed her happy spunky personality and ready hugs. God bless all of you and may her soul rest in peace.*

*Love,
Melissa Mckenna Fagan*

Melissa Fagan - January 20, 2016 at 10:36 PM

SH

“ Stephanie, Dan, and Paxton Heller purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Norma Arlene Smith.



Stephanie, Dan, and Paxton Heller - January 20, 2016 at 05:47 PM

DF

“ Fond memories dating back to the early 60's, the Smiths are a family we basically grew up with, Norma and Paul had kids around the same age as my family, so lots to look back on, exploring the pond shying away from the snapping turtles, to picnics in their party house and the last great memory was the dinner and huge bonfire afterwards the day we burried my mother, by the way, my mother (Marge), referred to Norma as her "EARTH ANGEL", they are now rejoined and will be friends to eternity. RIP Norma, you will be missed by all.

David Felton - January 20, 2016 at 05:07 PM

PS

“ My condolences to Paul, Paula and the entire Smith family.



Pat Sudbay - January 20, 2016 at 10:19 AM

PC

“ *Paul Kelly/Lake Cabinetry lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Paul Kelly/Lake Cabinetry - January 20, 2016 at 09:56 AM

TC

“ *Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - January 20, 2016 at 09:52 AM



“ *Healing Tears - Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Norma Arlene Smith.*



January 20, 2016 at 09:31 AM

DS

“ *Dave & Donna Stanton lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Dave & Donna Stanton - January 20, 2016 at 07:54 AM

LK

“ *Lory Preston Krummen lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Lory Preston Krummen - January 19, 2016 at 09:01 PM

SM

“ *Love you Grandma!!*



Sarah Monroe - January 19, 2016 at 05:49 PM

SM

“ *Sarah Monroe lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Sarah Monroe - January 19, 2016 at 05:37 PM

PC

So very sorry for your loss

Patricia Frazier Coleman - January 23, 2016 at 07:08 AM

KC

“ Kevin & Ashley Crouch purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Norma Arlene Smith.



Kevin & Ashley Crouch - January 19, 2016 at 02:24 PM

KW

“ KAREN WERNIMONT lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith



KAREN WERNIMONT - January 19, 2016 at 12:52 PM

SM

“ Sue Morrow lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith



Sue Morrow - January 19, 2016 at 11:11 AM

SM

My sympathy to Paul and the family.

Sue Morrow - January 19, 2016 at 11:11 AM

JH

“ *Jan Hummel lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Jan Hummel - January 19, 2016 at 10:33 AM

JK

“ *Jan Klahs lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



jan klahs - January 18, 2016 at 08:06 PM

CG

“ *Many great memories of the old neighborhood. Our thoughts and prayers to Paul and all the family.*

Ron and Cindy(Mohr) Gillman

Cindy Gillman - January 18, 2016 at 05:42 PM

KE

“ *Karen And Bob Eichner lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Karen and Bob Eichner - January 18, 2016 at 02:47 PM

KE

Many happy times spent with Smith family. Our sympathy to Paul and family.

Karen and Bob Eichner - January 18, 2016 at 02:50 PM

DE

“ *Thinking of you Rob and your family. So sorry for your loss. Dan and Deb Merten*

Deb - January 18, 2016 at 02:29 PM

LM

“ *Linda Miller lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Linda Miller - January 18, 2016 at 11:45 AM

JC

“ *Jeff And Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Jeff and Jean Chindlund - January 18, 2016 at 11:01 AM

PG

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to Paul and all your family. Norma is now at rest & peace with Jesus. Prayers for her and all of you. Love, Lary & Patty Gunville*



PATTY GUNVILLE - January 18, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ *Heidi Howard lit a candle in memory of Norma Arlene Smith*



Heidi Howard - January 18, 2016 at 09:42 AM