



Shirley Engebretson

January 11, 1937 - January 18, 2026

Shirley Ann Engebretson, a beautiful soul, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2026, at the age of 89 in Iowa City, Iowa, surrounded by the love of her family and friends, near and far.

Funeral services will take place Monday, January 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in Storm Lake Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the CHURCH. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Born on January 11, 1937, Shirley was the first child of Margaret Mae (Beadell) and Lester Delbert Bjorklund. She entered the world in the farmhouse of her dad's aunt and uncle near Albert City, Iowa—a place that set the tone for her life rooted in family and simple joys.

Growing up in Albert City, Shirley started as a kindergartner in a one-room country school, then moved to the town school through eighth grade. When her family relocated to a farm near Rembrandt, Iowa, she dove right into high school life. She was the bass drummer in the band, shone in speech and drama, excelled on the softball and basketball teams, and stepped up as a class leader. It was there she met the love of her life, Alan Engebretson, and thus began a shared journey of 53 wonderful years.

On October 1, 1955, they were married at the Rembrandt United Methodist Church. Their honeymoon in the Black Hills kicked off a life of several moves and many milestones. They headed south to a naval base in Jacksonville, Florida, where daughter, Alene, was born. Then to Sanford, Florida, for Alesa's arrival. Finally, they made their way back to Iowa, settling in Storm Lake. After a short stint in a quonset hut near the college, they settled into their forever home at 1225 Seneca Street - a place filled with love, chaos, and countless memories. Soon, Alan Jr. and Alec joined the crew, completing their lively family.

In Storm Lake, Shirley poured her heart into her work at a local grocery store, Witt Sales,

and eventually the Buena Vista County Clerk of Court office, where she retired after years of dedicated service. But her true passions were the things that brought her together with family and close friends: bowling leagues, golf outings, cards and Yahtzee games around kitchen tables, hosting unforgettable Sunday roast dinners and holiday gatherings, and stitching keepsake quilts for her grandchildren. She was always present - cheering at games, helping with activities, or just being a steady presence one could count on. In her retirement, she gave back to her community as a volunteer at the Storm Lake United Methodist Church, where her kindness touched so many. Later in life, she brightened the halls as a resident of assisted living facilities in Iowa Falls and Iowa City.

Shirley leaves behind a legacy of love in her children: Alene Rickels and her husband, Ronn; Alesa Case and her husband, Todd; Alan Jr. and his wife, Connie (Davis); and Alec and his wife, J.S. (Brown). She adored her 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, each one a piece of her joyful heart. She now reunites with her devoted husband, Alan; her parents, and her brother, Lester Jr., who all passed before her.

She will be missed every day, but her spirit lives on in shared memories and the love she taught those who crossed her path to give freely.

Cemetery Details

Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 26. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake
211 East 3rd Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Funeral Service

JAN 26. 1:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake
211 East 3rd Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Shirley Engebretson*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 22 at 02:59 PM

HT

“ *I met Shirley during her time at Bickford and though I only knew her for a few years she made quite the impact in my life. She was truly a joy to be around! I loved having her present during activities and would I would seek her out in my moments of down time just so I could visit with her. Shirley gave the best hugs and was a great listener. She gave me some really great advice about life, that without her I may not be where I am today. Her family was the most important thing to her and she was so proud when she spoke of them. Her beautiful soul will be missed! Sending lots of love to the family! ❤️*

Hailee Tynismaa - January 26 at 02:51 PM

SA

“ *Sally lit a candle in memory of Shirley Engebretson*



Sally - January 26 at 12:14 PM

DH

“ *David Haraldson and Vaughan Haraldson purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Shirley Engebretson.*



David Haraldson and Vaughan Haraldson - January 24 at 09:05 AM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 22 at 02:59 PM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 22 at 02:55 PM

RS

“ Ramona S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Engebretson.

Ramona S. - January 22 at 02:52 PM

GS

“ George and Karyn, Doyle and Sue! purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Shirley Engebretson.



George and Karyn, Doyle and Sue! - January 22 at 10:38 AM

GS

“ George and Karyn, Doyle and Sue! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Engebretson.

George and Karyn, Doyle and Sue! - January 22 at 10:38 AM

DT

“ Shirley was like my second Mom. I spent almost as much time at their house as I did my own house while growing up. She was as sweet as could be! I was in love with her daughter, from Jr. High until college, but my best friend would not let me date his sister!! I have many fond memories of Al, Shirley, and Al and Al and Al and Al !! I will miss her smiles!

Doug Thompson - January 21 at 04:33 PM

WT

“ Al & Shirley were great neighbors to us for many years. We missed Shirley and our little chats when she moved. Loved her friendly smile and her laugh. May she rest in peace.



Wilbur/Karen Triplett - January 21 at 12:44 PM

EM

“ Fond memories of Shirley and Alan attending many Rembrandt High School All Class reunions. A loving smile when seeing her in the courthouse too. May we carry this type of love for our families and others. This world will always be a better place sharing a love like Shirley's.

Erik and Mariellen Mosbo - January 21 at 09:54 AM

JD

“ John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Shirley Engebretson



John/Connie Demers - January 21 at 08:16 AM

MB

“ We were blessed to have Al & Shirley as dear friends. We spent many years having a great time, creating cherished memories. ❤ Shirley was devoted to & extremely proud of her family. It makes me smile thinking of the reunion that is taking place in Heaven ❤



Marian Buckendahl - January 21 at 12:29 AM

JC

“ Jean Chindllund lit a candle in memory of Shirley
Engebretson



Jean Chindllund - January 20 at 08:24 PM

DJ

“ Deb and Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Shirley
Engebretson



Deb and Kevin Jesse - January 20 at 07:37 PM

SM

“ Steph&Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Shirley
Engebretson



Steph&Sharon Mickelson - January 20 at 05:30 PM