



Lorene Marion Conner

September 9, 1926 - May 24, 2018

Lorene Conner

Jefferson, Iowa

Date of Death: May 24, 2018

Lorene Marion Kruse was born on September 9th, 1926 on the Kruse farm near Lidderdale, Iowa in Grant Township. She grew up during the Great Depression on the family farm. She attended a one-room school house and then Immanuel Lutheran School with her siblings in Lidderdale. She graduated from Carroll High School. She then attended and graduated from St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Carroll in 1948, as did her sister, Doris, six years later. She wed Robert E. Simpson on September 16, 1948. To this union eight children were born.

Bob attended ISTC (UNI) on the GI Bill after serving in the US Navy during WWII. After graduation his first teaching job took the young family to Dunbar, Iowa. Robert taught several subjects, including Science, Biology, Drivers Ed and coached girls' high school basketball. Jean and Jill were the young team mascots. The family also resided in Clemens, Wall Lake, New Hampton and Storm Lake. Lorene worked as a RN in each town. The family moved to Storm Lake when Bob accepted a position with the DOT as a safety consultant, serving in NW Iowa. This enabled Lorene to stay home with the children. A year and a half later Bob tragically passed away. Six children were still at home and Lorene returned to nursing, as a Buena Vista Public Health Nurse. Lorene and Jim Conner, a widower, eventually became reacquainted, having grown up on farms near each other, as did Robert. They married on July 27th, 1974 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Lorene and her three young children, Jeri, Jaye and Judy, joined Jim on the farm north of Jefferson. Combined with Jim's children, they had ten children between them. To this union there were many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who loved spending time on the farm. Many family meals are fondly remembered. Lorene was an excellent cook and took in stride the large gatherings.

During her lifetime, Lorene found time for many activities and causes. She always had ties

to the Lutheran Camp Okoboji – winning an essay contest to attend the first week when it opened and returning many years as a camp nurse, always with children or grandchildren who weren't old enough to be campers. She also sewed for her young children and grandchildren. Lorene was active in Greene County Democrats, Trees Forever, Garden Club, Community Betterment and AFS. She served on the St. Anthony School of Nursing Color Guard, attending fellow graduates' funerals, including sister, Doris. The farm family hosted an exchange student from Sweden, Anna Tegler. Lorene returned to nursing part-time at New Hope Village in Carroll after the children had left home. She also worked as a RN in Arizona when they stopped farming and Jim managed a combine crew. Lorene loved to travel and visited many of the US States. She had visited her mother Marie's, home state of Missouri since she was a young girl. Her extended family spoke German and young Lorene could understand the language by the time they left back for home in Carroll County. She traveled to Europe twice, once in the '70s as a leader with her daughter, JoAn, and the Storm Lake Girl Scout troop and later with Jim, in the '80s, to visit daughter, Judy, a high school exchange student in Linkoping, Sweden. Jim was on the West Central Co-op board and they took several co-op related trips. They also visited Jaye in Okinawa, Hawaii, while he was serving on a submarine in the US Navy. Lorene loved composing poetry and was published many years up until last year in the annual Lyrical Iowa poetry book. She encouraged her children, grandchildren and others to write and submit poetry.

Lorene struggled at the end of her life with neuropathy. She was cared for in her home by her devoted son, Jaye, as she had wanted. She continued to be mentally sharp, reading the Des Moines Register and completing the NY Times crossword daily (in ink!) until writing became difficult and her eyesight failed. She stayed current on political and world news. She enjoyed phone calls from family and friends, conversing with all of us on any topic. She kept up to date on politics and world events.

She was preceded in death by: her infant daughter, Kerry Lou; her first husband, Robert Simpson; her second husband, James Conner; her parents, Charles and Marie (Hahne) Kruse; her four older brothers, Lawrence, Raymond, Harold and Elmer Kruse; her younger sister, Doris Grade; two son-in-laws, Dave Griffiths of Des Moines and Robert Stevenson of Decorah; a niece, nephews and a sister-in-law.

Survivors include daughters and sons, Jean (Tom) Thompson of Postville; Jill (Richard) Lockey of Janesville; Joel Simpson of Charleston, IL ; JoAn Stevenson of Decorah; Jeri Griffiths of Des Moines; Jaye Conner of Jefferson; Judy (Mark) Obermeier of Edwardsville, IL; Steve Conner of Concordia, KS; Nancy O'Rourke of Carroll; Jeff (Robin) Conner of Panora; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; two sister-in-

laws, Norma (Harold) and Leta (Raymond) Kruse of Carroll and a brother-in-law, Lou Grade of Carroll.

Lorene was baptized, confirmed and married at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lidderdale and will be interred in the Immanuel Lutheran cemetery.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson. Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Lidderdale, IA. Visitation with the family present to greet friends will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 28, 2018 at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson.

Cemetery

**Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran
Cemetery**

Lidderdale, IA, 51452

Events

MAY 29 Funeral Service 10:30AM

Trinity Lutheran Church
801 West Lincoln Way, Jefferson, IA, US,
50129

Comments



“ Lorene's family,
Just know we are thinking of you during this difficult time. I remember Lorene from a long time ago in New Hampton. What a small world that we both ended up Jefferson. Joel, you were my classmate until 6th grade. JoAnn, I remember working with you when you were a dispatcher, as I worked in the courthouse. Your mom was such a nice person. I often saw her at the grocery store and we would always have a nice conversation. Our sympathy is with you all. Tom & Corinne (Colbert) Ball

Corinne Ball - May 29, 2018 at 03:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lorene Marion Conner.



May 26, 2018 at 11:20 AM