



Margaret Orris

November 28, 2012

Funeral services for Margaret Orris, 91, of Jefferson, will be 10:00AM Saturday, December 1, 2012 at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson. Interment will be in the Jefferson Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson beginning at 4:00PM Friday, with the family present at the church to greet friends between 6:00 – 8:00PM Friday.

Memorials are suggested to the Jefferson Public Library; the Greene County Medical Center Foundation; and to First United Methodist Church in Jefferson for local projects.

Margaret Marie Orris, age 91, died peacefully Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at the Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson, Iowa. The daughter of John Andrew and Minnie (Rickord) Johnson, Margaret was born August 3, 1921, at home in Buffalo Center, Iowa. She grew up and attended school there graduating with the class of 1938. She attended the Congregational Church taking part in Sunday school, Christian Endeavor youth group and choir.

After high school graduation she was accepted to the University of Iowa School of Nursing. She first worked at a restaurant for two years as the minimum age for admission was 19 years old. In 1940 her mother died, followed by her father's death in 1943. Margaret assumed the guardianship of her younger brother Howard at that time. She paid her own way through nurse's training and graduated as a registered nurse in 1943. After

accepting a nursing position at the Greene County Hospital, Margaret moved to Jefferson. She lived for a number of years with her brother Howard, and her sister Ruth, a school teacher. Following a year working at the hospital she became the office nurse for H.M. Brinker, MD until 1948.

In 1948, she met Searle Richard "Dick" Orris, "the best thing that ever happened in My Life". They were married that year and lived for a short time in Coon Rapids. In 1950, Dick went into partnership with Jim Parr forming Dick and Jim's Hardware store in Jefferson. Money was scarce for many years. Always a nurse at heart, Margaret was also practical when it came to matters of family finance. She joined Dick at the hardware store, working there for 25 years. Dick and Margaret remained happy during their 59 years of marriage, loving their family and each other very much. They raised four children, built two houses together, and enjoyed their home at Lake Panorama during retirement. Shortly before Dick's death in 2007, they moved to Ever Greene Ridge.

Margaret was a member of the Jefferson First United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women, serving in many offices. She was Co-chairman of the church Rummage Sale for several decades. She enjoyed crafts, puzzles, music, nature, songbirds, and especially her home, children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Dick, brothers Everett , Marion, Lyle "Bunny", Roy, and Howard Johnson, and her sister Ruth Johnson Starling.

Those left to cherish Margaret's memory include her sons Linn (Sara) of Prior Lake, MN; Don (Bonnie) of Jefferson, IA, Jerry (Janet) of Overland Park, KS, and daughter Gail (Curt) Reiter of Omaha, NE. Grandchildren are Kyle, Rachel, Matthew, Kelly, John and Jim Orris, Julie (Alex) Fitzgerald, Joseph and Brian Reiter, Luke (Suzie) Atwood with their children Allie and Lucy and Brittany Atwood. Also surviving are sisters-in law Madonna Kinsman and Beth Lee, other cousins, nephews, and nieces.