



Mary Ellen Meinecke

February 13, 2013

Funeral services for Mary Ellen Meinecke, 80, of Jefferson, will be 2:30pm Sunday, February 17, 2013 at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson. Interment will be in the Franklin Township Cemetery, Cooper, Iowa.

Visitation begins after 11:00am Saturday at Slininger-Rossow Funeral Home in Jefferson, where the family will greet friends from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

Memorials are suggested to Iowa Public Television or to the charity of your choice.

Mary Ellen Meinecke passed away February 13, 2013 surrounded by her loving family and the exceptional staff at the Gardens Assisted Living in Jefferson Iowa.

She was born to Wilson and Ena (Shaw) Davis on March 13, 1932 at home on a farm near Gray, Iowa. After her graduation from Gray High School, she attended the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls and taught country school until she married Carol Meinecke in 1953. The couple settled on a farm near Cooper where they had four children and then moved to Jamaica in 1967.

Mary Ellen was a full time mother and farmer's wife for over a decade before rejoining the

work force as a cook for the YJB High School and doing factory temp work in and heading up crews of teens for detassling corn and walking beans. In 1974, she became an attendant at Woodward State Hospital and was promoted to supervisor until she retired in 1992. She kept her hand in farming with her son, Jeff. While she was very caring and highly skilled in all her work and volunteer endeavors (she was known throughout the region for her baking acumen that she shared with the community), she was most proud of her "Grandma" role.

Lest one think she spent all her time in service to others, she knew how to have a good time. Mary Ellen and Carol, who met at the Starline Ballroom in Carroll, did a darn good jitter bug and looked forward to their monthly card club parties. They also enjoyed the "supper club" scene during the hey days of the 70's. Hardly world travelers, they did enjoy an occasional out of state trip and were there to assist their daughters in their moves to Texas and Minnesota. As a widow, her leisure time was spent reading, watching IPTV, news programs, the View, but would tolerate a variety of shows to accommodate her family. She was a diehard Hawkeye fan but later expanded her sports interest to the Cyclone and Panthers where her granddaughters attend college. When she moved to Jefferson 10 years ago, she joined the Methodist church and the Red Hat Society which exemplifies her balance of spirituality and fun. Regardless of the activity, she loved to laugh and connect with others. Mary Ellen is survived by her sister LaVonne "Bonnie" Hansen (Palmer) of Saylorville, IA; her children: LaDonna Meinecke (James VonBank) of Corcoran, Minnesota, and their daughter Helaina "Lainy"; Jeff Meinecke (Patty) of Panora, IA and their daughter Allison and son Jacob; Elizabeth Hougham (Wayne) of Jefferson, IA and their daughters Mary Rose and Anna Rae. Also surviving are step-grandchildren: Emily, Henry (Heather) and their son Charlie, and Willie VonBank; and Andy (Krista) and Megan Hougham and her daughter Ella. To have known Mary Ellen was to love her. She will be greatly missed by her family, other relatives and many friends.

Mary Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her oldest child, Dale; her sisters: Pearl, Rose, Erma, and Elaine, and her brother, John.