



## Rosemarie Funcke

August 16, 1929 - February 28, 2016

Rosemarie Funcke

Jefferson, Iowa

Date of Death: February 28, 2016

Memorial services for Rosemarie Funcke, 86, of Jefferson, will be held at 11:00am Friday, March 4, 2016 at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson. Interment will be in the Jefferson Cemetery.

Rosemarie's family will visit with friends one hour prior to the memorial service, beginning at 10am Friday at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson.

Rosemarie Gertrude Reschke Funcke was born August 16, 1929 in Friedberg, Germany. She was the youngest daughter of Werner Georgi Reschke and Elise Blasing. She attended school and graduated at the age of 14. Her plans of going on to study Home Economics for college were unable to continue when Russians invaded Germany in 1944. Upon that invasion, her family was forced to leave their home and walk to their nearest relative's home near Berlin which was approximately 99 miles. The family found an apartment near Berlin. Rosemarie had various jobs; one included working as a nanny for a General who had been widowed.

Rosemarie met Kurt Funcke when she was 19 years old in 1948. He worked for a farmer down the road from where she worked as a nanny. They began dating and he called her "roschen" which meant rosebud. This nickname stuck throughout their marriage. They were united in marriage on November 10, 1950. From this union, Werner Willi Funcke was born.

In November of 1952, Kurt, Rosemarie, Werner and Rosemarie's mother immigrate to the United States, arriving on a small ship named Grota Bear after two weeks of stormy seas. Kurt and Rosemarie were sponsored by a farmer in Farnhamville, Iowa, where they joined Rosemarie's aunt, uncle, sister and brother-in-law who had also immigrated to the US

from Germany.

The family moved to a farm north of Jefferson in 1954. In 1974, Rosemarie and family moved to Jefferson.

Rosemarie worked cleaning houses and caring for the loves of her life, her husband, Kurt, and son, Werner. She enjoyed time spent with her family and friends. There were many trips to Germany to see family and friends, bringing home treasures such as china and lace that she made into curtains that hung in the house for many years. The grandchildren and great grandchildren always looked forward to their birthday parties that grandma and grandpa always had for them, which included balloons and cake. She was always helping paint and clean houses for grandchildren and tending to her flower garden.

A tradition of Rosemarie and Kurt's was to have Coffee every day after Kurt returned home from work. This tradition carried on through the years. Rosemarie was known for her famous streusel kuchen and strawberry tart. She took pride in keeping up her home and loved to clean windows. There were also many hours spent on her sewing machine. Dancing to German Polka music was a joy.

Even as Kurt's health was declining and he entered long term care, she was there every day to eat lunch and spend the afternoon with him. After his death on December 7, 2014, Rosemarie wanted to stay in her home as long as she could, which she did with the help of Unity Point Hospice Team. Following a fall in February that led to a broken hip, Rosemarie entered the Greene County Medical Center. There, she passed away peacefully on February 28, 2016 at the age of 86 years.

Rosemarie is survived by her daughter-in-law, Kathryn Funcke of Jefferson, IA; grandchildren: James (Shannon Haley-Funcke) Funcke of Jamaica, IA; Jared (Jayne Peters) Funcke of Jefferson, IA; Anne (Matt) Carstens of Paton, IA; and Jonathan Funcke of Jefferson, IA; great-grandchildren: Wyatt, William, Afton and Austyn Funcke of Jamaica, IA and Cassidy, Brandon, and Madesyn Carstens of Paton, IA; other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kurt; son, Werner; her father and mother; and sister, Gertrude Bennewitz, and brother-in-law, Willi Bennewitz.

Memorials are suggested to the family.

# Cemetery

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**Jefferson Cemetery**  
1019 East Lincoln Way  
Jefferson, IA,

# Events

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**MAR 4 Visitation with Family 10:00AM**  
Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home  
119 West Lincolnway, Jefferson, IA, US, 50129

**MAR 4 Memorial Service 11:00AM**  
Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home  
119 West Lincolnway, Jefferson, IA, US, 50129

# Comments

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“ Rosemarie entered our lives when she began cleaning our house.....which led to her loving care of my mom, Ellen McMillin as she aged....which led to Rosemarie and Kurt buying our house when my Mom moved to Alabama to be with me in her final years. Rosemarie's love and care for my parents continued when she faithfully placed flowers on their graves each Memorial Day. I have so many fond memories... too many to share here! Our last phone conversation came when I first heard of Kurt's death. Although I am clear across the country, I will greatly miss your mother-in-law and grandmother. Many of those fun parties you mentioned were in the same house in which I had my own birthday parties! I would love hearing of the next chapter for the home my parents built. Will another Funcke family be moving in? May God bless you all. Karen Bartels

**Karen McMillin Bartels** - March 04, 2016 at 06:25 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing your memories. We all love that house that Kurt & Rosemary made into a loving safe place for all who came through the door. We are hoping to keep the home in the family but no plans have been made yet.

**Kathy Funcke** - March 05, 2016 at 09:57 PM