



Bernace A. Kerwin

July 10, 1921 - February 2, 2019

Bernace A. Kerwin, 97, of Oskaloosa, died Saturday, February 2, 2019, at Oskaloosa Care Center in Oskaloosa. She was born July 10, 1921, in Seymour, Iowa, the daughter of Percy Hughes and Lucy Thomas Hughes. In 1934, she accepted Christ as her savior, from that time on she devoted her life to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She graduated from a charter high school in Chicago in 1939. Following high school, did clerical work. She also attended Moody Bible College. She was united in marriage to Edwin Daniel Kerwin on March 22, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois. Edwin died on March 20, 2007. Bernace spent time working in Chicago for a detective. Bernace was an excellent typist and spent most of her working life as a secretary at various places including Mahaska Hospital, Clow Valve Company and the Gospel Tabernacle in Oskaloosa. She also worked as an assistant activity director for Seymour Care Center for many years. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Bernace was always active in her church, she was the church organist and pianist and helped with the Awanis Club. While living in Oskaloosa she attended Gospel Tabernacle now known as Fellowship Bible Church in Oskaloosa. She also taught child evangelism in the family home of Steve Bell in Oskaloosa for many years. Serving the Lord and raising her family where her two greatest joys in life.

Her family includes her two children, Sharon (F. Richard) Gygi of Nebraska City, Nebraska and John Kerwin of Osceola, Iowa; six grandchildren, Peter Gygi, Phillip (Maureen) Gygi, Danielle (Jake) Kraehling, Carley Kerwin, Caleb Kerwin, and Cole Kerwin; four great grandchildren, Theresa and Sarah Gygi and Harrison and Lucy Kraehling; one step grandson, Eric Bertrand; one sister, Reva Anderson of Davenport, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Edwin Kerwin; a daughter in infancy, Linda Lou; four brothers, Jack, Bert, Tom, and Keith Hughes; two sisters, Iris Merritt and Lela Hughes.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa with Reverend Rodney DeRonde officiating. Private burial will be

held in Southlawn Cemetery in Seymour, Iowa. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. The family will be present at the chapel from 10 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to Awanis Program at the First Baptist Church in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Cemetery

Southlawn Cemetery

Seymour, IA, 52590

Comments



“ A lovely person! Happy memories of Bernace and her sister Iris (my grandmother) who were both loving and fun-loving. Steve and I send our condolences and love...
Judy (Merritt) Neal

Judy Neal - February 05, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ Always, Jerry and Dianne Bernholtz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bernace A. Kerwin.



Always, Jerry and Dianne Bernholtz - February 05, 2019 at 08:45 AM



“ We will never forget Mrs. Kerwin. She always had a smile and a kind word. We are to provoke one another to love and good works. She did that in life and now she will continue to do it in our memory. I had the honor of being her pastor in Osceola for a few years, and she was our piano player. She had a special touch on the piano that can't be explained. We will greatly miss her.

Matthew Floyd - February 04, 2019 at 11:51 PM



“ Bernie, was a sweet, beautiful person. Her love for Christ, family and her friends were undeniable. She will be missed by many. Sending our thoughts and prayers as her family goes through this tough time of saying Goodbye... Jodi German Briggs & Family.

Jodi German Briggs - February 04, 2019 at 07:41 PM



“ Thank you John for introducing me to your Mother, Bernie back in 2010. She was a very sweet woman. Heartfelt condolences to you and your family. May God watch over you and your family at this time. Deb and RJ Hobbs

Deb - February 04, 2019 at 10:16 PM



“ Bernie is a wonderful lady and a good friend. My husband, daughter, and I used to go to her home in Seymour for music practice. I don't think anyone could go to her home and leave without being filled up with refreshments. It was a blessing to fellowship with her and Ed at church, or at their home. I first met her at a little church east of Moravia where her parents were trying to help. She was a great encouragement to my family. She used her talents well and with a spirit of humility. We missed her when she left our area but stayed in touch for a while. Heaven has gained another jewel. Bernie, we will be seeing you soon.

Barbara Adams - February 04, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ So many wonderful memories of both Bernace and Ed in Seymour at Grandma's and Great-grandma's. They also made the trip to Guthrie Center for several cantatas at our church. What a blessing they were to all whose lives they touched! Love, Debbie (Merritt) Menning

Debbie Menning - February 03, 2019 at 11:29 PM



“ Thankyou !

John - February 04, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Sharon and John and their families at this time. Your mother was very sweet and kind....heaven gained a very special lady!!

Carmen (Pitman) Caves

carmen caves - February 03, 2019 at 10:21 PM



“ One of my most favorite ladies of my lifetime was Bernice. You all will never know just how much she meant to John and I. She was such an encouragement to us. I remember the good times we used to have on our senior trips. Of course Dick and I used to get stuck on the back seat of the van. Bernice would sit up front with John driving. She would say, Come on John we should be singing, so the two of them would sing, and the rest of us just enjoyed it. I loved Bernice so much, and the cups of good tea, she and Dick would always serve us. My first thought was now she is singing on streets of gold with her Savior. I heard someone say the other day, Heaven gets sweeter all the time. See you soon, Bernice.

Marilyn and John Christner - February 03, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ I was raised at the Oskaloosa Gospel Tabernacle. Such wonderful memories of Bernie, you couldn't help but love her, she was just such a sweet and loving lady. I will always cherish my memories of Bernie.

Cathy White Rice - February 03, 2019 at 05:52 PM



“ Memories:
Sunday night “Coffee time “
Wednesday night Bible Study
Hymns played on the organ
Words written of testimony, encouragement
Lessons she taught me about our Savior .
My life was truly blessed by the life she lived.
Looking forward to seeing her in Heaven
What a day that will be,

Cindy Hurst Osborne

Cindy Hurst Osborne - February 03, 2019 at 08:02 PM



“ Sharon, John, and family,
I will always remember Bernie playing the organ at church besides leading the band. She was always full of energy. I know she is rejoicing now.
May God give you comfort, strength, and peace during this difficult time and days ahead.
Connie Wymore Wright



Connie Wright - February 03, 2019 at 02:06 PM