



Shirley Ann Whitten

January 5, 1935 - January 21, 2021

Shirley Whitten, 86, of Oskaloosa died Thursday, January 21, 2021, at the MHP Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa. She was born January 5, 1935, in Pershing, Iowa, the daughter of Herschel and Clara (Smith) Miller. She graduated from Attica High School with the class of 1953. On November 22, 1953, she was united in marriage to William "Bill" Whitten. To this union three children were born, William, Kenneth, and Kelsie. Bill's career as a pilot in the military took the family all over the world. In addition to caring for her family and tending to their home, Shirley gave selflessly to her church and other civic organizations. Though they moved often, she was always willing to find her spot in their new duty station. Upon Bill's retirement from the military, the family moved back to Iowa and settled in Marion County. Shirley and Bill later divorced after many years of marriage. Once settled in Iowa, Shirley went to work at the D.O.T. office at Southridge Mall in Des Moines, then transferred to the D.O.T. Oskaloosa office. A year later, she took a job as secretary at the D.H.S. office in Oskaloosa. She always wanted to be a secretary and she enjoyed her work in that office and felt like she was really helping people. She retired from D.H.S. in 2001.

Shirley lived a full life, in her words she was a small-town girl born in Pershing, Iowa that saw the world. She had an adventurous and outgoing personality. She enjoyed traveling all over the world and made it a point to visit all 50 states. She not only enjoyed the sightseeing part of traveling but she enjoyed the people she met along the way. Shirley was passionate about the D.A.R., she was a longtime member and held several offices over the years. She enjoyed traveling with the D.A.R. all over the eastern United States. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, knitting, and solving number puzzles. She also loved animals, especially poodles. She had a lifelong love for Elvis Presley and his music. She delighted in spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Her family includes her three children, William "Bill" (Janice Jordan) Whitten of Oskaloosa, Kenneth Whitten of Oskaloosa, and Kelsie (Randy) Whitten-Smith of West Liberty; five grandchildren, Wil (Karen) Whitten, Krystal (Josh) Valster, Kenneth Whitten, Paul Whitten, and Lynsee Smith; five great grandchildren; and a great great granddaughter; a sister-in-

law, Roena Miller.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Lillian (Donald) Lookabaugh and a brother, Herschel Miller.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held Saturday, January 30, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bates Funeral Chapel with Reverend Chad Lierman officiating. As was her wish her body has been cremated. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment is advised for attending a religious public event. Open visitation will begin Friday after 12 noon in the Bates Funeral Chapel and the family will be at the funeral chapel from 5-7 Friday evening to greet friends and relatives.

Events

JAN **Visitation - Open** 12:00PM - 05:00PM

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Bates Funeral Chapel

114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

JAN **Visitation - Family Present**05:00PM - 07:00PM

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JAN **Celebration of Life** 10:30AM

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Bates Funeral Chapel

114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ Jean Luzadder lit a candle in memory of Shirley Ann Whitten



Jean luzadder - January 29 at 06:48 PM



“ 16 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - January 29 at 02:10 PM



“ Luzadder Family lit a candle in memory of Shirley Ann Whitten



Luzadder family - January 29 at 12:08 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Whitten.



January 28 at 04:09 PM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - January 28 at 02:42 PM



“ I loved talking to Shirley, when she would bowl on our league on Thursday mornings. She was very friendly and enjoyed bowling.

Mary Stout - January 27 at 08:15 AM



“ she was a nice lady knew her a little bit when she used to live in Tracy Iowa . She will be missed. Cindy Schippers

cindy schippers - January 26 at 03:24 PM



“ The Pearson Publishing Services Team purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Shirley Ann Whitten.



The Pearson Publishing Services Team - January 26 at 03:07 PM



“ What a lady! I am so very very glad my kids and 2 of my 3 grandkids enjoyed her. She was fun & patient. So very glad she was put in my life. Lyn (Jones) Kinney

Lyn Kinney - January 26 at 02:03 PM



“ Shirley was such a sweet lady. I did her hair for many years & always loved seeing her. She was so kind & friendly. Miss you Shirley.

Katie Caudron - January 26 at 12:58 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of Shirley's passing. My thoughts are with her family. I worked with Shirley @ DHS years ago. She was a very thorough person and whatever rsk she worked on she did it right. The world lost a special woman.

Connie Harvey - January 26 at 11:00 AM



“ She was such a good bowler and always good to talk to. My sympathy to her family.

Becke Arnold - January 26 at 10:24 AM