



Beverly Joanne Mick

June 20, 1938 - June 28, 2016

Beverly Joanne Mick, age 78 years and eight days, of Albia, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at the Monroe Care Center in Albia.

A Celebration of Life for Beverly will be held on August 6, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at Bussey United Methodist Church, Bussey, Iowa, with Pastor Neil Montz officiating. Visitation will be held following the service at Bussey United Methodist Church with the family present. A private family burial at Greenlawn Cemetery in Bussey will be held at a later date.

Beverly was born on June 20, 1938, in Bussey, Iowa to Esther Samuel and Frederick Wayne Mick. She was very proud of her community and was active in the Bussey MYF, the local library and sports. She excelled at basketball as a proud member of the Bussey Yellow Jackets girls basketball team, and as a two-time All-State player helped lead the team in the 1955 Iowa Girls State Championships.

She graduated from Bussey High School in 1956, attended Central College in Pella, Iowa, on a National Merit Scholarship, graduating in 1960. She completed her master's in math from San Diego State University, one of only two women admitted to the program. Upon completing her education, she taught mathematics in Gowrie, Iowa, before moving to California, where she continued to teach math for 40 years at various levels in schools in Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande, and San Luis Obispo areas.

In 1995, she received a "Women in Education-Excellence Award" from Cuesta College where she had been a math instructor for many years.

Beverly had a great love of local Iowa history and wrote, *Soaring Wings, A Song of Remembrance*, which she provided to local schools and libraries. Previously, she had written a set of math workbooks (1978-1981), which she also shared with teachers and schools in both California and Iowa, and an unpublished short story entitled *Highway History, Des Moines to Albia on Highways 163, 63, and 137*. She had a passion for art, especially water colors of communities and nature of the West Coast and the Southwest.

She purchased many pieces of art in these styles, sharing with friends and donating many to Cuesta College to help establish a continuous art display at the college. Additionally, she undertook the task of identifying and marking the species of all the trees on the Cuesta campus.

In March of 2008, she purchased the old Open Bible Church in Albia, Iowa, refurbished it to its original architectural and interior decor, and renamed it The Old Vic. It was used for various public functions until July 2009.

Beverly was active in the communities where she lived. A short list of her activities include docent for The Old Vic, Albia Chamber of Commerce, Bussey United Methodist Church, DAR, and giving presentations of her book Soaring Wings. Always a teacher, she continued tutoring individuals in math and French, almost until her death.

Beverly is survived by her brother, Lt. Col. (Ret) Ronald Wayne Mick of Arlington, TX; her sister, Carolyn Lee Mick DeCora of Bussey, Iowa; one niece, Wendy Dawn DeCora of Iowa City; two nephews, Gregory Wayne (Nylpha) Mick of Abilene, TX, and Scott Christopher Mick of McKinney, TX; and three great-nephews, Sean Frederick Mick, John David Mick, and Timothy Floyd, all of Abilene, TX. She is also survived by one uncle, Bernard E. Mick of Waverly, Iowa, and many cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her maternal grandparents, Richard and Elizabeth (Baxter) Samuel; her paternal grandparents, Fred and Sylvia (Olson) Mick; and one nephew.

The family thanks the Monroe County Care Center, the Monroe County Hospitals and Clinics, and Dr. Haas for their loving care of Beverly during her several illnesses. A very special thank you to cousins, Peggy Newman, Theresa Plum, Jane Haywood, and Jill Mick for all the hours they spent visiting and assisting Beverly however she needed.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

6

Bussey United Methodist Church
501 Edwards Street, Bussey, IA, US, 50044

AUG **Visitation** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

6

Bussey United Methodist Church
501 Edwards Street, Bussey, IA, US, 50044

Comments



“ I was so sorry to learn of Beverly's passing. She worked with my granddaughter on learning how to speak French. She was a wonderful lady that we both will miss. I loved visiting with her during Izzy's lessons and when she was at the hospital for test. I also provided transportation for her while I was working with Interim HomeCare. Her stories were always very interesting. She talking a lot about her niece and her past teaching job in California and her beloved Indians of Iowa. She was a delight.

Lorraine Bjornson - August 23, 2016 at 04:41 PM



“ Carolyn DeCora is following this tribute.

Carolyn DeCora - July 09, 2016 at 06:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Carolyn DeCora - July 09, 2016 at 06:32 PM



“ Please add photo to tribute wall. Thanks

Carolyn DeCora - July 09, 2016 at 06:36 PM



“ I met Bev in 2008 after she took on the renovation of the beautiful church which is now Dr. Thomas' office. I lived at the top of the church in the apartment and cared for the lower part after community members rented out what used to be the area of worship. Bev would stop by occasionally and share with me her experience during the renovation process. If you have visited the former church you will see a beautiful rose or pink color on the walls. Bev spent days researching colors to match the era she was trying to portray. She was a brilliant woman with a passion for our history here in Monroe County as well as Wapello, Marion, and Mahaska Counties. She lined the walls with images of our Native American roots as well as our coal mining days. Even after Bev decided to sell the former church we stayed I touch. In May of 2010 Bev and I traveled to California together. Bev lived many years on the central coast in San Luis Obispo. We visited her friends and local culture. She especially loved the farmers market that took place every Thursday evening. One day Bev went to visit her friends and I visited San Simeon and Hurst Castle (Bev loved the castle and all the history it stands for). That evening back at the hotel I shared pictures of hundreds of sea lions lying on the beach. She affectionately referred to them as dirty couches :) and laughed about me being a biology teacher so of course I would be interested in such a hideous creatures :) much to my surprise she purchased a home while we visited the central coast. In the upcoming months I helped her pack and said goodbye. Ee exchanged cards and emails and when she returned to Pella a handful of years it was bittersweet. She loved California but needed to come back because of her health. I visited Bev many Saturdays in Pella and when she secured a place at the assisted living facility here in Albia I helped get her settled and would visit her often. While in Pella Bev wrote and recorded a book for children. She wanted to spread our Native American history. Those of you reading this...if you haven't read it you should! And then give a copy to everyone you know! In the short time I have known Bev I have flown for the first time, visited California for the first time, experienced the creeks and watersheds that are crucial to our history and current being, I visited the best place in the world: Morro Bay, and discovered what it really means to be an independent, professional, intelligent woman. Bev I thank you for everything. While you will be with me always, you will be greatly missed!

Mekca

Mekca Wallace-Spurgin - June 30, 2016 at 11:15 PM



“ Joe and I met Bev in Albin when she decided to renovate the church building behind the library. She commented she just couldn't let the building deteriorate any more and lose those beautiful windows. Then known as The New Vic, she said she needed a project. I loved hearing Bev's stories of teaching in California. She loved history of Native Americans also and her eyes lit up when asked about her writings. She especially loved to recite her poems about them. I wish we could have spent lots more time together. She was quite an interesting lady. Rest in peace Bev. You will be missed.

Joe and Wanda Flahive - July 01, 2016 at 08:25 AM