



Mary Evelyn Gray

November 25, 1925 - August 9, 2014

Mary Evelyn Gray, age 88 of Albia, passed away Saturday, August 9, 2014, under the care of Monroe County Hospice at the Monroe County Hospital in Albia.

Mary was born November 25, 1925, in Monroe County, IA to Lee Brink and Anna (Thomas) Hoover. Mary attended school in Hiteman and graduated from Hiteman High, class of 1942.

She married Jesse Gray on September 25, 1942. To this union 6 children were born, Patricia, Cathy, Steven, Greg, Mary Beth and Timothy. They shared 41 years of marriage before Jesse's passing in 1983.

Mary was a homemaker while raising her children. She then went to work in the cafeteria at the Albia Sales Company before going to work at Chamberlain's as a glass glazer where she retired from.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the VFW Auxiliary, and the Eagles, all in Albia. She was the caretaker for the Hiteman Cemetery for many years. She enjoyed having coffee and playing cards with neighbors and friends. She liked going to play Bingo at the Legion and enjoyed doing crossword puzzles. She loved spending time with her family and in earlier years, enjoyed preparing dinner for them every Sunday.

Mary is survived by 2 daughters, Cathy (Jim) Flattery and Mary Beth (Gary) Caster both of Albia; a son, Greg (Jolene Aunspach) Gray of Albia; 2 daughter-in-laws, Sandy Gray of Hiteman and Debbie Gray of Rochelle, IL; 14 grandchildren, Rick Flattery, Melissa (Edwin) Brand, Michelle (Doug) Weldon, Mike (Carrie) Gray, Monica (Richard) Tharp, Steve (Jill) Gray, Jean Ann (Randall) Watts, Brenda (Pat) McDonald, Amy (Dave) Podmolik, Chris (Melissa) Caster, Billy Donnelson, Bobby Donnelson, Lacey Gray, and Adam (Carly) Gray; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, Bob Eastlick; and a sister-in-law, Thelma Hoover. Mary is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jesse; her parents, Brink and Annie; a daughter, Patty; 2 sons, Steve and Tim; 3 brothers, Wilbert, Robert, and Francis; and 2 sisters, Mildred and Maxine.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia; with Fr. Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will be in the Hiteman Cemetery in Hiteman.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Mary's family present throughout the day and evening. A rosary will be led by St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society at 4:00 p.m., with a Christian Wake Service beginning at 6 p.m.

A memorial has been established to Monroe County Hospice.

Comments



“ I remember going to her home in Hiteman when Patty and I were kids and went to school together in Hiteman. Mary was always friendly and talked with Patty and I on most occasions when I would visit. I remember my Mother Rosella (Starcevic) Bettis always telling me about her visits with Mary and how she enjoyed catching up on all the family news. She will be missed and I am sorry for your loss. She will always be in that special place where we keep the ones we love.

My sympathy goes to the family. God bless all.

Zella (Bettis) Orendorff - Grant City, MO - distant cousin - August 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to the entire family. Mary was a great person & a great one time sister-in-law to Mom. She was a great friend to Mom for many years. God Bless.

Mary Pettyjohn - August 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Aunt Mary. The last of our family matriarchy. She was a great lady with remarkable strength and stamina. Both of our Mothers are neighbors again! I will miss seeing her when I visit Iowa. Love and prayers to you all. Rhonda, Mike, and family

Rhonda Gray Mitrison - Brooksville, FL - Niece - August 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers are with you all on Mary's passing. She was a great lady and is now in heaven with her husband and children who are waiting for her.

Mary , and especially her daughters Cathy and Betsy, brought me much joy as I was growing up visiting my grandparents in Hiteman. I did not know it then, but these memories became part of who I am today.

May your memories sustain you and please know others are sending a lot of love and prayers.

Love, Joan Vognar and family

Joan (Abell) Vognar - oak lawn, IL - friend - August 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Gray family: Sorry for the loss of Mary. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Cheryl Corso Gray - Unionville, IA - Mary used to be my mother in law - August 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy go out to all of you. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all at this time. The Podmoliks

Colleen Podmolik - Frankfort , IL - August 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember living on the circle in Hiteman when I was a little girl and going over to Mary and Jesse house and she would give me warm cookies. Mary was like everyones grandma that lived on the circle. RIP Mary

Annette - Hiteman, IA - Old neighbor - August 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM