



Carolyn Sherry Strasko

February 25, 1938 - June 20, 2013

Carolyn Sherry Strasko, age 75 of Eddyville, passed away June 20, 2013, at Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa.

Sherry was born February 25, 1938, the eldest daughter of Neal and Verna (Brunk) Downing, in Ottumwa. She grew up in Ottumwa and enjoyed orchestra and choir in high school. She was united in marriage to Stephen M. Strasko in 1956, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia. They celebrated over 57 happy and blessed years together.

Sherry was very involved and supportive of her children's activities including religious education, sports, dance, music, and 4-H. She served on the Wapello County 4-H Committee and also the school PTA, in which she was a past president. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ottumwa, and later St. Mary's in Albia after moving to the farm in 1979, and a member of the St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Societies. She loved flowers and knew all their names. She and Steve enjoyed Iowa Hawkeye football and held season tickets for several years. They loved traveling to bowl games and visiting cathedrals, grottos, and other fun stops along their route. Sherry loved cooking for her family, decorating for holidays, and having her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren visit.

Sherry was a stay-at-home mother for many years. She later was a tax

preparer at H&R Block and managed a Cencor tax business in Ottumwa. In 1974, she began working at John Deere Ottumwa Works, retiring in 1994.

Left to cherish Sherry's memory is her husband, Steve; eight children, Shelley (Mark) Bettis of Albia, Kathy (Rob) Reed of Ottumwa, John (Donna) Strasko of Albia, Teresa (Rick) Simpson of Eddyville, Jim Strasko of Eddyville, Patty (Larry) Clark of Albia, Lisa (Matt) Heintschel of Escondido, CA, and Linda (Mark) Lunsford of Eddyville; and 31 grandchildren, Jon, Cory, and Alicia Bettis, Bobbi Jo, Ryan (Ashley) and Tyler Reed, Tiffany (Zach) Tremmel, Amy, Michael, Kim (Josh) Samson, and Suzanna Strasko, Melissa (Toby) Nicholson, Mike Simpson, Travis (Kelly) Simpson, and Kristin (Brian) Kool, Jami (Jeff) Hirsch, Stephanie (Josh) Hagen, Steven, and Nicole Strasko, Jessica, Carolyn, Sarah, Curtis, and Janelle Clark, Matthew Jr., Luke, John, Marc and Peter Heintschel, and Blake and Brooke Lunsford. She is also survived by 15 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Jewell (Gene) Gray and Linda (Jack) Graham both of Ottumwa; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a great-granddaughter.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 27, 2013, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Fr. Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia.

Visitation will open at 11 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Sherry's family present from 6-8 p.m. A rosary will be led by St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society at 4 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia.

Tribute Wall



“ *Carolyn Sherry Strasko*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Carolyn Sherry Strasko*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Your mom was a great lady whom I remember fondly. As a mother, I am awestruck at how she and your dad raised such a big family of so many wonderful humans. Her legacy definitely will live on in you guys.*

Luella Aubrey - Norfolk, VA - friend - August 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *THE ONE THING I'LL REMEMBER MOST IS HER SMILE & HER LAUGHTER. SHE ALWAYS HAD AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR ME, BUT ALWAYS VERY HONEST. I LIKE THAT. SHE WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MANY THINGS SO FUN TO TALK TO. SHE WAS ALWAYS BLESSING ME. THEN IT FLOWED DOWN TO CASSIE WITH MY FIRST DOG & CASSIE'S. SHE LET HER GO PICK ONE. (BUTTONS) SHE ALWAYS SHOWED LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY. SHE WILL BE MISSED BUT SHE IS LEAVING A GREAT LEGACY THROUGH HER CHILDREN. I THANK GOD FOR YOU IN MY LIFE. LOVE & BLESSINGS TO ALL THE FAMILY AND FREINDS*

CINDY FLUKE - DES MOINES, IA - NEICE / GOD DAUGHTER - June 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Sherry, you were the wind beneath my wings.*
Rita

Rita Gergely - Albia, IA - Friend - June 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We will miss Sherry she was a wonderful women!*

Jason, Lana, Katie and Kenzie

Lana Ballard - Altoona, IA - Great Niece - June 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *Hi to my loving family. The loss of a loved one is not easy. The Memory's of your wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend are ENDLESS. I was so lucky to have her as part of my family. I treasure so many things of the 60 years that I knew her and shared so much with her and family. She was an incredible cook. I especially remember a fluffy desert with whip cream, marsh mellows and fruit. And all of the other endless things she would fix. PIG OUT!!!!!! I LOVED IT!!!!*

Mom and Dad (Walter and Leona Wadle) loved trips to the Hawkeye games as season ticket holders and VEGAS!!!!

I could go on forever. Anyone that knew Sherry was lucky. It is sad. But it makes me smile to think back at all of the memorys!!!

ENJOY THE MEMORYS. Not everyone is as lucky to have them like we do.

Love Suzy

Sue Wadle - Des Moines, IA - Niece - June 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM