



Laura Mae (Toopes) McGrath

February 17, 1931 - January 18, 2013

An angel got her wings Friday, January 18, 2013 when Laura Mae (Toopes) McGrath, age 81 of Albia, passed away at Monroe County Hospital in Albia.

Laura was born February 17, 1931 to Clarence M. and Elsie A. (Richards) McDowell in Ottumwa. She married Leonard I. Toopes, Sr. on January 29, 1946 in Ottumwa. Laura later married Joseph Edward McGrath on October 3, 1981 in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Georgetown. He preceded her in death on April 2, 2010.

Laura grew up and attended school in Ottumwa. She began work as a waitress before moving to Albia and working at Chamberlain's. In 1973 she started at Chicago Rivet and retired in 1994.

Laura was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society in Georgetown. She was a great cook and enjoyed volunteering her time in the kitchen at the Leisure Lounge in Albia. To her family, she was their rock. She was always willing to take care of her family and friends that needed her help. She also enjoyed bowling and was very involved with her children's activities.

Laura is survived by her children, Lennie (Dee) Toopes of Albia, Donna (Mike) Kearney of Newton, Robert Toopes of Albia, Carol Arnold of Knoxville, and

Greg (Holly) Shelford of Knoxville; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Laura is also survived by two sisters, Connie Surber and Mary Terpstra; and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Leonard I. Toopes, Sr. and Joseph Edward McGrath; a son, James Lee; a grandson, Michael Kearney; two brothers, Richard and Clarence; two sisters, June and Rosie; a son-in-law, Steve Arnold; and a daughter-in-law, Christina (Visser) Toopes.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Georgetown, with Fr. Patrick Lumsden officiating. Burial will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Georgetown.

Visitation will be 12-8 p.m., Monday, January 21, 2013 at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Laura's family present from 6-8 p.m. A rosary will be led by St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society at 4 p.m., and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 6 p.m. Monday evening at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to St. Patrick's Church in Georgetown.

Tribute Wall



“ *Laura Mae (Toopes) McGrath*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Laura Mae (Toopes) McGrath*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Lenny, Donna, Bob, Carol, and Greg:*

*Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your Mother. Laura was a special lady who had such an infectious smile and laugh. Will always remember the good times in Lovilia. God Bless All of You!
Love,
Kim & Steve Haluska and Family*

Kim Haluska - Carroll, IA - Family/Friend - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thinking of you*

Pam and Stephanie Lord - Ottumwa, IA - Cousins - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Kathy Riedel and Family - Ottumwa, IA - niece - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Donna & Mike: So sorry to read about Laura's passing! I am saying prayers for you and your family at this sad time. I am out of town at a niece's wedding and won't be back until Wednesday after the funeral. So sorry I couldn't make it to the visitation but will try to see if Joe feels like going. Take care and remembering you and your family in thoughts and prayers. Wanda

Wanda Flahive - Albia, IA - friend - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ You were an amazing woman! You help raise your siblings, you raised 5 children, and then you help raise me! I am so grateful for all that you taught me! I don't know what I would have done with out you growing up! I LOVE YOU!!!

Amanda Toopes - Albia, IA - Granddaughter - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ I always enjoyed talking with Laura. She was a warm and friendly person. I'm glad she and Uncle Joe found each other. My sincere condolences to all her family.

Denny Crall - Iowa City, IA - Great nephew - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I love you and will miss your smiling face! Enjoy your reunion with family & friends in heaven.

Lora Bakalar & family - Albia, IA - friend - January 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Laura was a very special lady and will be missed by her friends and family. I enjoyed working with her at the Leisure Lounge for many years.

Kathy Elliott - Albia, IA - Friend - January 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VI

“ *What a wonderful lady! May you hold close in your heart all those precious memories!*

valerie selby small - Blakesburg, IA - January 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM