



Marilyn Vandenberg

August 10, 1933 - January 7, 2020

Marilyn Vandenberg, age 86, of Albia, passed away on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at the Monroe Care Center in Albia.

Marilyn was born on August 10, 1933, at home in Marion County, IA, to Everette and Madge (Wilson) Sterling. Her family moved to Lovilia in August of 1935 and Marilyn remained in Monroe County the remainder of her life. She attended Lemon country school west of Lovilia and later graduated from the Lovilia High School with the class of 1951. On February 7, 1953, she married Gerald "Jud" Vandenberg in Knoxville, IA. To this union, 4 children were born, Darla, Kenny, Russ, and Jaxine. Marilyn and Jud shared 29 years of marriage prior to his passing on December 20, 1982.

Together, Marilyn and Jud owned and operated Vans Kennel where they sold dogs of all breeds nationwide. In one of their best years, they sold 5,200 dogs. Later Marilyn worked as a teacher's aide in Special Education at Grant Elementary School before working at Ragtime in Albia as an aide. She also worked at Cindy's Beauty Hut in Albia.

Marilyn enjoyed being outdoors, taking walks, and going for rides. She always looked forward to and cherished her Friday night date nights with her husband. She was very talented and enjoyed making quilts and embroidering, as well as writing and journaling. She enjoyed attending the County Fair with

her grandchildren. Marilyn loved the holidays and enjoyed decorating for Christmas. She was a devout woman of faith who was baptized as a child at the United Brethren Church in Lovilia by Reverend Smith and later was a Charter member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia where she had been attending since 1969.

Marilyn is survived by 4 children, Darla (Al) Safford of West Palm Beach, FL, Kenny (Peggy) Vandenberg and Russ (Becky) Vandenberg, both of Albia, and Jaxine "Jackie" (Phil) Bauer of Knoxville; 9 grandchildren, Josh Gutcher, Stephanie Gutcher, Stephanie (Bob) Coughlin, Vanessa (Jason) Szlachetka, Joe (Carmel) Vandenberg, Chelsey (Kenny) Gibson, Mikayla (Will) James, Gerritt (Jordyn) Davis and Trent Davis; 12 great grandchildren; a brother, Richard Sterling of Knoxville; a sister-in-law, Bev Sterling of Knoxville; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bill and Betty Weldon of Lovilia. Marilyn is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends, including a special friend and roommate at Monroe Care Center, Judy Lahart.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jud Vandenberg; her parents, Everette and Madge Sterling; a granddaughter, Sarah Gutcher; siblings, Glenn Sterling, Karen Courtney, and Jack Sterling; and nieces and nephews, Neal Courtney, Ed Sarsfield, Mark Sterling, Lynda Beekhuizen, Nancy Lorsung, and Gwen Sterling.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, 2020, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Marilyn's family present from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. to greet family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia, with Pastor Roger Henry and Pastor Lynda Carlson co-officiating. Burial will follow services in Oak View Cemetery in Albia.

A memorial has been established to the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia.

Cemetery Details

Oak View Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 10:30 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church
1117 Benton Ave East
Albia, IA 52531

Tribute Wall



“ *Marilyn VandenBerg*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Marilyn VandenBerg*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Sharing many memories with Marilyn. Her greatest love was her family and her grandchildren. She helped with many projects at the church. When we were doing the special dinners, we knew we could count on her doing an outstanding job.*

The weather kept me from visiting with each of you but I did get a ride to the funeral. It was very special, just so fitting of Marilyn and her love for life. God Bless all of you!!

Margaret Mordan - January 13, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember going on trips with Grandma Karen and Grandpa Jim Courtney to visit her. Also remember all the times she came down to visit us all here in Nebraska. I'll miss you Aunt Marilyn!*



Kristina Courtney - January 10, 2020 at 01:47 PM

HS

“ So sorry to hear about your mother. Our thoughts are with you.
Greg and Holly Shelford

Holly Shelford - January 09, 2020 at 10:37 PM

LL

My grandmother bought Jack sterling's house in lovilia iowa .sorry for your loss

Linda lopez - January 14, 2020 at 11:53 AM

KJ

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Marilyn was a very special lady; I'm thankful that I got to know her after I started attending Trinity UMC. (Living in Knoxville means that I knew Jack and Dick, so we had a connection quite quickly.)

Praying for you at this difficult time and in the difficult days ahead.

Sincerely,

Kim Jolly

Kim Jolly - January 08, 2020 at 02:22 PM

PF

“ I knew Marilyn in high school. A wonderful person. Thoughts and prayers for her family.
Phyllis Franzen.

phyllis franzen - January 07, 2020 at 11:20 PM

VS

“ Always loved Marilyn! She was the kindest, most caring lady!
Keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers!!!

Valerie Small - January 07, 2020 at 10:55 PM



“ *Such a wonderful lady !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! My family sold her and Jud tons of puppies back in the day and they were always fabulous to deal with. Years and years later she still remembered me and would always ask about my parents. I missed seeing and visiting with her on the walking trail after her health began to fail.*

Alan Harrington - January 07, 2020 at 08:14 PM



“ *As a child, I attended Grant School while Marilyn worked there. She was always so nice to us kids. As an adult, she still remembered who we were and was always pleasant to talk to. She will be missed in this community. Prayers to everyone!*

Dacia - January 07, 2020 at 02:08 PM