



Shirley JoeAnn (Coatney) Fry

January 14, 1936 - March 23, 2025

Shirley JoeAnn (Coatney) Fry, age 89, of Albia, IA, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Good Samaritan in Ottumwa, IA, with her family at her side.

Shirley was born on January 14, 1936, to Jesse and Margaret (Adams) Coatney in Centerville, IA. She attended Centerville High School. On September 6, 1953, Shirley married the love of her life, Jackie Lee Fry Sr. in Jerome, IA. They were married for 52 blissful years. Out of this union, they had 3 wonderful children, Jackie, James (Bucky) and Sabrina. The family lived in Centerville, Indianola, and Russell. They settled in Albia in 1976 where she resided the rest of her life.

Shirley worked for many years as a restaurateur where she made many lifelong friends. She owned and operated Blue Bird Café in Albia, the café at the hotel in Albia, J Stop & Shop in Lovilia, The Albia Cafe in Albia, Cozy Corner in Moravia, and the Lake Thunderhead Marina in Unionville, MO. Her final position was at the Continental Assisted Living in Centerville as a cook until she retired at the age of 78 in 2014. Shirley loved her work and thoroughly enjoyed working with the public.

Shirley was an active member of the Eagles Auxiliary 3583. People will always remember her Texas Tacos. She also volunteered for several charities.

In her free time, she loved to spend time with her family. She enjoyed having company at her house. She spent a lot of time with her grandchildren and loved having them around. She really enjoyed going on vacation with Jack to places like New Orleans, Fort Lauderdale, San Antonio, Disney World and Colorado. After Jack passed, she vacationed with friends and family to Germany, Hawaii, and a Bahamas cruise.

Shirley is survived by her sister, Bonnie Coatney Amundson; a son, James "Bucky" (Mary Pat) Fry; her granddaughters, Tina (Ryan) Vosberg and Melissa (Tim) Dennison; 3 great grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jackie Lee Fry Sr; a son, Jackie Lee Fry Jr.; a daughter, Sabrina LuAnn (Fry) Hopkins; a grandchild, Stephanie Hopkins; her parents, Jesse and Margaret Coatney; and siblings, Rev. W Russell Coatney, Doyle Frances Coatney, Ruby (Coatney) Kuzik, Julia (Coatney) Mooney, Wanda (Schaffer) Strange, Glada (Schaffer) Hall, Doris (Schaffer) Mahan, Franklin Schaffer, Clayton Schaffer, Darriel Lee Coatney, Janite (Coatney) Holmes, Jerry Coatney, Ruth (Coatney) Arnold, and a stillborn brother.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Shirley's family present from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. to greet family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia. Burial will follow services at Haines Cemetery in Centerville, IA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Make A Wish Foundation that Shirley was very fond of.

Cemetery Details

Haines Cemetery

Centerville, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

APR 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

DS

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Shirley was a joy to visit, never a loss for conversation!

Deeanna and Dustin Smith - April 04, 2025 at 03:52 PM

LV

“ Linda V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley JoeAnn (Coatney) Fry.

Linda V. - April 03, 2025 at 07:24 PM

LA

“ Love, Tom, Jax and Quinn Arnold purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Shirley JoeAnn (Coatney) Fry.



Love, Tom, Jax and Quinn Arnold - April 03, 2025 at 11:30 AM

DA

“ To Shirley family. Im a son of Bonnie Amundson. Bonnie is a half sister to Shirley. We give our condolences and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

don amundson - March 23, 2025 at 08:32 PM

CP

Prayers and blessings to the family of Shirley. Cindy

Cindy Putman - March 24, 2025 at 02:11 PM

CS

“ *Rip Shirley, you have had a long life. It was nice to see and get to know you at the Eagles Club here in Albia...My condolences to the family as they mourn her loss..Peace be always with you.*

Connie Shortridge - March 23, 2025 at 07:33 PM

LV

“ *Oh Shirley girl! I spent many a walk with you when I lived in Albia. Many memories were made at the Eagles Club, laughter, hugs, dancing. A true loving spit fire friend! Rest in peace Shirley girl!*

Lynn Vroegh - March 23, 2025 at 07:07 PM