



Bernice M. Smith

December 14, 1927 - May 10, 2019

Bernice M. Smith, 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away Friday, May 10, 2019, at St. Luke's Hospital at the Ed & Joan Hemphill Hospice Unit, from complications due to abdominal blood clots. The family will greet friends from 4 - 7 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2019, at Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cedar Rapids. A family Graveside Service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at Linwood Cemetery, Cedar Rapids. A Celebration of Life will follow at 11:00 a.m. at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church, Marion, Iowa. A luncheon will be served after the celebration at the church.

Bernice was born December 14, 1927, at her home in rural Shueyville, Johnson County, Iowa to Milver and Ameliea (Louvar) Novotny. She graduated from Shueyville High School in 1946. Bernice married Kenneth I. Smith on January 14, 1948. He passed away March 28, 2006. Bernice was employed at the Turner Microphone Company and owned a wedding cake bakery. She always wanted to help others and encouraged people to be registered with the Iowa Donor Network, as she was. She was a member of Echo Hill Presbyterian Church and the Twirlin' Travlers Square Dance Club. Bernice volunteered for many years at the Cedar Rapids Public Schools and Echo Hill Church. In 2009, she received the Governor Volunteer Award. She enjoyed square dancing, traveling, camping and baking.

Survivors include her children, Dennis Smith (Sharon Krambeck), David (Sue) Smith, and Keith (Narvella) Smith; grandchildren, Greg (Amanda) Smith, Lyndi (Chris) Bieber, Sarah (Paul) Switalski, Brian Smith, Kayla Smith, Abigail Smith, Niko Smith and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, infant brother, Merle; sister, Darlene Crozier and her husband, Darrell; and daughter-in-law, Nancy Smith.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the entire Hemphill Hospice unit for their compassionate care they provided Bernice.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Echo Hill Presbyterian Church,
Building Fund.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

13

Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service
520 Wilson Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, US, 52404

MAY **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

14

Echo Hill Presbyterian Church
9000 C Avenue, Marion, IA, US, 52302

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service - May 11 at 04:18 PM



“ Growing up across the street, I have so many fond memories of Bernice. Always kind, always encouraging, even when I didn't deserve it. Hope you're having a blast in heaven, Bernice! You will be missed. xoxo

Christie McGuigan - May 14 at 03:56 PM



“ I consider being able to call Bernice my friend one of my greatest blessings. What a role model she was for so many of us. Her ready smile, her wicked wit and her constant faith will always be a reminder of how life should be lived. Thank you Bernice.
Shirley Miller

shirley miller - May 14 at 09:40 AM



“ We were neighbors of Kenneth, Bernice while Keith was growing up. We loved them all, and I felt especially close to Bernice. She was always kind and encouraging especially in regards to my two children. I stopped by to see her a few times when I'd be driving past the old neighborhood. It was always a joy to visit with her. I'm a better person for having known her. Sending Love and Sympathy to your family, Ladd and Lorraine McGuigan

Lorraine McGuigan - May 13 at 10:11 AM



“ Condolences to the family.
Bernice made our wedding cake 54 years ago and then made our sons cake 27 years ago also. She was the best cake maker ever.....
She will be missed by many for several reasons.
With Our Sympathy
Darrell & Carolyn (Crozier) Marak

Darrell & Carolyn (Crozier) Marak - May 13 at 09:21 AM



“ Bernice was a lovely lady who we knew through Boy Scouts. She was always pleasant and friendly. May she rest in eternal peace. God bless her.
Don and Fran Hatfield

Don and Fran Hatfield - May 12 at 09:47 PM



“ Bernice and Ken were such good friends to my in-laws, Cedric and Minerva Todd. It was a joy to know them. Especially when Minerva was dying Bernice was there for her and such a comfort. She had such a beautiful heart. Our condolences to the family.
Jan and Len Todd

Jan Todd - May 12 at 07:06 PM



“ We had many many good card games at the Community Center in Ely with her. She was a sharp pinochle player.
She was quick witted and a joy to be around. Very sweet lady.
Bill and Jan Spratte

Janet Spratte - May 12 at 10:19 AM



“ When my sisters and I got together here in Seattle this morning, we each agreed that we wanted to grow up to be just like our Aunt Bernice. What a role model she was! Her open-hearted acceptance of us (and just about everybody) as we were, her infectious laugh, her sense of fun, and her can-do attitude, were things that we have always admired. A life well-lived for sure. We have the recipe and ingredients for Kolaches and plan to get together with our mom, Harlene Bray (Bernice's sister-in-law) out here in Washington State, to eat Kolaches and tell Aunt Bernice stories. I wish that we could make it back to Iowa, but it's just not in the cards at this point. Know that we will be thinking about our cousins and their families in the next days.

Donna Bray Johnson

Donna Johnson - May 11 at 05:27 PM



“ Karla and I will be in Minnesota next week when the funeral festivities for Bernice take place, so will not be able to attend the events at the funeral home or the funeral service at Echo Hill. We will be there in spirit, however. Anyway, I have fond memories of Bernice as an engaged and friendly face at Echo Hill during our days there. As she began to lose her vision over this past year I was able to lead her to some meaningful services and she was very appreciative. She even started attending the blindness support group I have been organizing and participated actively in last month's program, so it came as a bit of a surprise when Bess Naujoks informed me that Bernice was very ill and in hospice. I has the pleasure of visiting her once a few weeks back, and she was very weak, but just as sweet and sharp as ever. I will miss her.
Jonathan ice

Jonathan Ice - May 11 at 04:55 PM



“ On our 40 anniversary Bernice was going to make us a cake, she asked what kind of cake we wanted. My husband Donald joked that he wanted a black one. So when the anniversary came and we were at the family reunion, she brought out an all black cake. We all had a big laugh but then Bernice brought out a beautiful cake which we all enjoyed. I will miss her very much. We had a great long-time relationship. Harlene Bray (sister-in-law)

Harlene Bray - May 11 at 04:12 PM



“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service - May 11 at 03:09 PM



“ To an incredible mother-in-law: There were several special moments we had, from your loving acceptance of me during my courtship with Keith, from the time we announced we were going to have Niko and you lovingly looked at me and said how do you feel? I told you I was elated and you said that is all that matters and gave Keith and I heartwarming advice for our relationship to succeed. Sharing what joy you had having Keith at a later age. I enjoyed the many times I beat you at cards or did you beat me? It was so much fun giving each other a hard time. In the hospital you told me I was so beautiful and the next day announced for the whole family to

hear, that you love your daughter- in-law, Narvella, making me feel so special and you honored me and the Lord, by asking me to sing Jesus loves me to you on our final day together. You even touched my older son's Thomas' life. He said, mom if I can go see Bernice please let me see her, she never forgot me always included me, made me feel like family and as I watched you two embrace it melted my heart. I am especially grateful for the incredible bond that you and Niko share, one like I have never seen before he loves you so purely, so unconditionally, and every time he says your name he lights up, you can see the joy on his face, he's so proud to have his grandma and told all his little friends. He loved your visits, every Christmas and special time together you will be so deeply missed by us all. Narvella.

Narvella Smith - May 11 at 02:26 PM



“ Bernice made my wedding cake in 1965. When I went to her home to decide the decoration of the cake, she gave me very good advice about married life which I still remember today. She was a sweet lady to me.

Rev. Barbara Losey - May 11 at 11:30 AM



“ The first Sunday Keith and I visited Kenwood Park Bernice was promoting the chicken noodle supper by imitating a chicken. I knew that was the church for us. She always made us feel so welcome. Her smile and hug made Sunday morning just that much more special. What a gift to have her in our lives.

Janene Thompson - May 11 at 09:21 AM



“ What a Blessed life Bernice & Ken had. Prayers for their family and friends. Pat & I knew them as Square Dance Campers and really enjoyed their stories around the campfire. The one that Bernice told of her modesty during a "Rest Stop" along the highway on her honeymoon trip out west was the best laugh I had in years. I also enjoyed the one Ken told about the right kind of wood to use in the cabin that was long enough to keep pushing into the fire from his rocking chair.

She now joins Ken, as well as other family members, and the many other Camper Friends we had over the years.

Herman Meyer - May 11 at 09:19 AM



“ Bernice was a client of mine at the bank for many many years. I so enjoyed dealing with her and Ken. She was a joy to be around. Her love of her family was very apparent. May her family find peace in knowing how much she loved them

Joyce Rasmussen - May 11 at 07:36 AM



“ Bernice was such a special lady and I was very blessed to have known her in my younger years. I know she will be greatly missed by so many here on earth but there is rejoicing in heaven.

John Long - May 10 at 11:41 PM



“ Bernice always had my back. Ever since I was a kid, she always encouraged me to be me. Lately, I would change my hair color or get a new tattoo and she would be the first one to say how much she loved my free spirit. I don't think I ever told her how much her smile and hugs meant to me. Stephanie Hall

Stephanie Hall - May 10 at 10:47 PM



“ Bernice always had a warm smile and hug to welcome me. She was awesome baker, and she was always there for comfort. I will miss most of all is the unconditional love she gave to Dave, Sue, Sarah, Brian and her great grand children.

Love Don

Donald Tyne - May 10 at 10:46 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Bernice



David Smith - May 10 at 09:55 PM



“ Things I didn't know... there is a lot of course, but learning that Bernice worked at Turner Microphone Company reminds me of my Grandma Klopp because she also worked there.

Bernice and family, thank for sharing about the life she/ you lived and reminding me of my family and how there were many similarities of how both ladies lived their lives.

Prayers, blessings; laughter and tears; as you share and celebrate the life of this one very special soul!

So in life and in death we have our being.

Deb Klopp - May 10 at 07:37 PM



“ We are so blessed to have known this beautiful lady. She was very special and I will always treasure our conversations both fun and serious. She loved life and has left memories on my heart forever. Curt and Marcie Snitker.

Marcie Snitker - May 10 at 07:16 PM