



Mildred 'Milli' Dawson

August 28, 1937 - February 15, 2021

Mildred “Milli” Dawson, 83, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, transitioned into eternal rest on Monday, February 15, 2021. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Cedar Rapids is assisting the family.

Milli was born on August 28, 1937, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Glenwood and Aileen Tolson. She graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and went on to attend Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Milli was united in marriage to Henry Leo Dawson on July 30, 1955 in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She was the Director of the Commission of Veterans Affairs in Linn County for over 33 years until her retirement and she was passionate about her work with veterans both locally and statewide. She was also a former President of Quota Club International in Cedar Rapids. Milli was an active member of Victorious Life Church. She was a classically trained pianist, playing for numerous church choirs, soloists, including her husband, and her children’s singing group. Milli was an avid sports fan and enjoyed “coaching” from the stands and at the TV. She loved to cook and bake her famous chocolate chip cookies. Milli loved her family dearly and her love spread to her extended family and friends who called her “Grandma Milli.” She was loved by many and will be missed by all who were blessed to know her.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Henry Leo Dawson of Marion, Iowa; children, Charlesetta Dawson of Browns Summit, North Carolina, Kevin Dawson of Cedar Rapids, Luana (Fredrick) Steele of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and Lisa (Keith) Elzia of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; sisters, Carolyn Rumph and Jaqui Tolson; brother, Jerry (Karen) Tolson; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two nieces; one grand-niece; and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Glenwood and Aileen Tolson; and her son, Jeffery Lyn Dawson.

Special thanks to the amazing staff at the Meadowview Memory Care Village for their loving care of Milli and their support for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family c/o Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 520 Wilson Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.

Comments



“ Rest in peace beautiful!



Sonja Anderson - April 09 at 08:07 PM



“ Mrs. Dawson was a beautiful soul inside and out. She had such a sweet spirit. Always had a smile on her face. I remember seeing her and her husband in Ryan's Steakhouse after church, many times, and he would be encouraging my husband and having a good time just talking about the Lord and she would be encouraging my son who had just began piano lessons. She would always give my son the biggest hugs. After Ryan's closed we only saw them on occasion but she still had the same smile. We will miss her. Our condolences to the family. May God strengthen you during this time.



Belvin, Sonja and Alex Anderson - April 09 at 07:04 PM



“ Sending our love and deepest sympathy to you and all of your children and family. May the love, comfort and peace of God be felt in the days and months ahead. Love, Esther Brooks, Theodore Brooks, Estine (Brooks) Wilson and Rosann (Brooks) Nelson.

Estine Wilson - March 09 at 10:57 PM



“ Annette (Ray) Mallory lit a candle in memory of Mildred 'Milli' Dawson



Annette (Ray) Mallory - March 03 at 01:34 PM



“ To the Dawson family sorry for your loss. God Bless with Love the Ray family!
Annie, Annette and Bub

Annette (Ray) Mallory - March 03 at 01:26 PM



“ My sincerest condolences to the families during this time . I just want to say thank you for sharing her with some of us while she was here . I thank God for the many moments that I saw her , was able to watch her play , teach and sing. Also for all the times I was able to speak with her for over 30 + plus years. I will continue to pray for you all

JUAN Hollingsworth - February 25 at 10:05 AM



“ To Cousin Leo and family, we wish to offer our prayers and condolences over the loss of Cousin Milli. God bless you. From Rachel (Dawson) Schoenthal and family. Granddaughter of Yansee and daughter of Charlotte Dawson

Rachel Schoenthal - February 25 at 09:10 AM



“ Condolences to your entire family. I remember your mother as such a sweet and soft spoken lady. I am certain you have many memories to cherish .

Michele Hidder Duggan

Michele Hidder Duggan - February 25 at 08:57 AM



“ Cousin Leo & Family, Since I can remember where there was Leo and Milli singing together with her accompanying them on the piano. Cousin Milli had a quiet and sweet spirit. The Dawson family reunions weren't complete without the both of them. We know that she is resting in the arms of the Almighty God. We are praying for you all. Much Love Pastor Gilbert & Mary Jo Clay & Cousin Robert's Family Robert, Roberta, Mickee & Roxanna

Mary Clay - February 25 at 02:04 AM



“ TO the Dawson Family sorry for the lost I was a member at Mt. Zion MBC from Bishop Orlando A Ray Bishoprayfiowa20199@gmail.com

Bishop Orlando A Ray - February 25 at 12:29 AM



“ I knew Millie through Meadowview and she was so sweet and loved to wear hats. I remember her eyes being lit up when she wore them and I will cherish those memories for the rest of my life. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Dawson family and I am so sorry for your loss.

Knowing Milli she is up there in heaven helping taking care of the babies up there.

Renee Wenzel - February 24 at 07:42 PM



“ Milli was a kind and strong advocate for veterans of Linn County plus kind and caring for all who worked with her at Linn County. My heart goes out to Henry and her family-Lisa thinking of you.

Trude Elliott - February 24 at 04:29 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. I knew Milli for many years through working at Linn County. She was very good at looking out for veterans. She was a classy person.

steve gannon - February 24 at 12:26 PM



“ I was the Director at Linn County Mental Health and Disability Services and worked next door to Milli for many years. I was very saddened to read of her passing this morning. I am sure she will be greatly missed by her family. I missed her when she retired from Linn County. She taught me how to stay calm when things were getting crazy.

Craig Wood - February 24 at 10:03 AM



“ To the Dawson family:
Please accept my condolences on your loss. It is never easy losing someone you love. Hold on to those memories, continue to hear her voice and don't ever stop talking to her. She is with you always. I hope that comfort and peace come to you. I know that she will truly be missed. I got to know Milli through my experiences with my wife at Meadow View.
You are in my prayers and thoughts.
May God bless all of you.
Jim Voss

Jim Voss - February 24 at 09:07 AM



“ Many memories with Sis Dawson. We worked with MT Zion choirs for many years. She was a joy to work with in the church and also community functions. She will be missed by many. Much love to the family.

Linda Sanders - February 23 at 09:23 PM



“ Sis Dawson was part of my village as well as church. She was always there with kind words and love. She is now resting in our Lords loving arm.
Condolences Dawson family



Diantha Powell - February 23 at 08:16 PM



“ Vickie Clark lit a candle in memory of Mildred 'Milli' Dawson



Vickie Clark - February 23 at 05:39 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Dawson family. We have so many fond memories. As a child , it was a privilege and a gift from God to enjoy your family worshipping God's name ! Such a blessing. The Heavenly choir is rejoicing ! Teresa McCane

Teresa Mccane - February 23 at 02:05 PM



“ Dr. Dawson,

First, I would like to say thank you for sharing some amazing times and some troubling moments regarding your mother. It meant a lot to be able to join you in celebrating milestones...birthdays, anniversaries, good days and in prayer in sickness/well being over the years. To Him we give the honor and the glory!

Secondly, yet one more final earthly milestone to celebrate...the going home of your mother! Yes, she will be missed but to know without a doubt...to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

May God Bless you, and Heaven smile upon you and your entire family for being awesome, husband, daughters, sons, grandchildren, nieces, sisters and brothers to your special mother!

Sherry Williams
Greensboro, NC

Sherry Williams - February 23 at 12:31 PM



“ I Am so very sorry for your Loss , Healing thoughts and prayers to you all . A very beautiful person who I had the honor of meeting and who was admired by so many .
Love Gregory and Ravi Chandran

Gregory Chandran - February 23 at 04:47 AM



“ Dr. Charlesetta,
Words may not suffice to express the heartfelt sorrow that I feel for the passing your mother. Our sincere condolences and prayers our with you. May God continue to bring you strength and peace.
Bennie, Tonya, and Benton Felton
Greensboro, NC

Tonya Felton - February 23 at 12:11 AM



“ Charlesetta,
Sending condolences to you and your entire family from Greensboro, NC. You are all in my prayers. May you continue to be surrounded by God's grace and love!

Peace and Blessings,
Felita Donnell

mayberryfrd@aol.com - February 22 at 10:03 PM



“ Sending our condolences to the Dawson family. Mili was a beautiful woman inside and out and made those around around her feel special.
Keith and sheila Chappelle

Keith chappelle - February 22 at 04:57 PM



“ My sincere prayers and condolences to the family. Mrs Dawson was very sweet and loving woman of God. Sending my love to all. Doris Saddler

Doris Saddler - February 22 at 02:53 PM



“ Dr. Dawson,

Condolences are extended to you and your family as you experience the homegoing rituals for your beloved mother, Mrs. Mildred Dawson. Loss is overwhelming but as Christians, we know that there is JOY in the morning; you were blessed that God allowed you to pass through her, and precious memories after time-will transform your tears into smiles.

May God comfort and grant you peace beyond our understanding.

HALLELUJAH,
Albertina McGirt

E. Albertina McGirt - February 24 at 09:15 AM



“ Milli was a Mt.Pleasant classmate of mine all through elementary, middle, and high schools. We were in so many music activities together; I even knew Glenwood! Milli was a talented and gracious friend. In more recent years we renewed our memories at class reunions. Her sweet smile in this picture is vintage Milli! I share your grief but know that she is bringing her beauty to heaven.

Belinda Lyons - February 25 at 04:33 PM