



Shirley Marie Johnson (Stimson)

April 23, 1931 - April 16, 2012

Shirley Marie Stimson Johnson, 80, of Marion, died at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Monday, April 16, 2012.

Shirley, the eldest child of Francis and Marie (Barton) Stimson, was born on April 23, 1931, in Des Moines, Iowa. The family later moved to Marion, Iowa, where she grew up and attended school. Shirley married John R. Clark in 1948, at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California where John was stationed with the U.S. Navy. Over the years, Shirley lived and worked in many places across the U.S. and overseas, including Japan, the Azores, Turkey and Lebanon. She worked for the U.S. government in various capacities at American consulates, NASA in Houston and the National Security Agency while living in Maryland. In 1976, Shirley married Alvin McGrath; they divorced after many years together. In 1998, she returned to Marion, Iowa, where she married Lynn Johnson. Shirley was a vivacious, smart and inquisitive person. She loved traveling and talking to her friends. She enjoyed playing bridge and scrabble, doing crossword puzzles, singing, and listening to "Coast To Coast" talk radio.

Shirley is survived by her sons, John (Karen) Clark-Hansen, and Jay Clark, both of Iowa, and Jeff Clark of Idaho; her grandchildren, Josh Clark, Meagan Clark-Hansen and Julian Clark. She is also survived by her sister, Carol (Larry) Pace of Okeechobee, Florida; and her brother, Jim (Diane) Stimson of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Among her dear friends she especially counted Alvin McGrath, Twila Mattson and Annie Lawton. They were constant to the last.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Paul Stimson; her husband, Lynn Johnson; and her constant canine companion, Hank.

Condolences may be sent to the family at 2647 29th Ave., Marion, Iowa, 52302. Memorial donations may be sent to St. Luke's Hospice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, or to the charity of your choice.

Graveside services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012, at Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Center in Marion.

Comments



“ It's been a bad year without Shirley. I miss her very much. I feel her presence ALL THE TIME though. I developed an overwhelming addiction to NY Times crossword puzzles for a while after she died, and I was unaccountably much better at them than I ever had been before. She was helping me, I'm sure. When I laughingly told her ex, Al, that my new addiction was interfering with my life and sometimes even making me late for work, it immediately stopped. I still pick them up once in a while, and I'm still better at them than before. Shirley continues to nag me about smoking, and I have cut back. Thanks Shirley. You're welcome in my house anytime. If you were here, we could share a nice pork chop, mashed potatoes and corn-on-the-cob dinner, with pie for dessert. Yum! Well, I guess I could cook that dinner for two, and eat your share, OK? Do you want ice cream with yours? Love you always.

Ann Lawton - April 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Just thinking about you a lot lately Shirley...Julian and I really miss you and I especially miss having my friend to get together with, doing our favorite thing...eat! I think about you all the time, thank you for everything you did for us. Love you!

Morgan Henry - October 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very honored to have met shirley. Julian you have my sympathy buddy. Your grandma was a wonderful individual!!!

Dustin pollard - May 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm surprised there are no condolences here yet. Perhaps I'm early. Shirley knew so many people in her lifetime, although I guess during the last few years of her life she fell out of contact with many, and many of her closest friends preceded her in death. During the last two years or so, she used to tell me how she had "seen another Shirley in the Iowa paper obits again today" or "I saw another schoolmate of mine in the obits today" or "we lost another person at bridge today." Since I don't have a mother, Shirley taught me what it is like to grow old. Losing touch with your friends, suffering through the deaths of friends and family, learning what is dear to your heart and what is not, and how important it is having someone to share your hopes and dreams with throughout it all -- these are some of the things she taught me. She taught me so much. I thought we had said all there was to say during those hours and hours and hours of phone conversations, but I find there is still more I'd like to say to her. Still more I'd like to hear from her. "I'm sorry" isn't one of those things, I'm glad to say. But I probably didn't say "I love you" often enough. But she knew it. I'm lucky to have been her friend. See ya later, Shirley. Look after me, will ya? I get into so much trouble when you're not around.

Annie Lawton - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM