



Kathryn A. Harthan

November 25, 1926 - April 3, 2016

The funeral service for Kathryn Harthan will be held at 11:00 AM at the Schuller Family Funeral Homes' Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena on Saturday, April 9, 2016 with Father Aaron Kuhn officiating. Visitation will be at the chapel one hour prior to the start of the service. Kathryn, 89, passed away Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 3801 Grand Assisted Living Facility in Des Moines, Iowa, with family by her side.

Born in Hankinson, North Dakota, on November 25, 1926, Katy was the eldest of five children. While still a young child, her parents Francis (Frank) Scheller and Emelia (Molly) Weinkauff Scheller moved to a farm near Wadena, Minnesota. Growing up she worked on the farm and helped with the dairy cows they raised.

Shortly after WW II, she married Elmer H. Irish of rural Wadena, Minnesota, and they had four children. After their marriage of 20 years dissolved, she met and married the love of her life, Gordon Gale Harthan and in the late 1960's, they moved to the Des Moines, Iowa, area where Gordy started a practice as a chiropractor.

She had many "careers" in her life. In her late 30's, she took a correspondence class in millinery (hat making), which culminated in ownership of her own fabric and millinery store in downtown Wadena. That

segued into retail as a women's ready-to-wear store manager, banking, and eventually as an insurance agent before she retired at age 76.

Those who knew her best, would probably describe her as feisty, spunky, and determined, with a great sense of humor. She had a joke for everyone. She loved to bake, can vegetables from her own garden, sew, and she crocheted over 400 afghans, 50 of which she gave to patients at the Alzheimer's facility near her home where she retired in West Des Moines, Iowa. She was brought up in the Catholic religion and continued to follow her faith throughout her life.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Gordon Harthan and sister, Betty Brockob (Don).

Katy was dearly loved by her children, Connie Irish-Hess (Ken) of Carmel, California; Randee Irish of Mandan, North Dakota; Joe Irish (Jeanne) of Glyndon, North Dakota; and Kelly Harthan (Susan) of Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

She loved her four grandchildren, Amber Hess Mehta (Agustya) of Mountain View, California; Kelsey Irish Polk (Patrick), and Zachery Irish both of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Ryan Harthan of Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

Katy is survived by three of her four siblings, Frank Scheller (Barbara) of Verndale, Minnesota; Jim Sheller (Barb) of Bertha, Minnesota; and Pat Schwartz (Alvin) of Wadena, Minnesota.

Katy's eldest granddaughter, Amber, gave birth to her first child (Katy's great grandson), Ambrose Mehta this Easter Sunday. She was auntie to many nieces and nephews and great-grandma to two step great grandchildren.

Many thanks to Suncrest Hospice and 3801 Grand, the Assisted Living Facility where she lived for their kindness to Katy and her family.

Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Suncrest Hospice. Online condolences may be expressed at www.caldwellparrish.com.

Arrangements with Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home and Crematory in Urbandale, Iowa with assistance from Schuller Family Funeral Homes in Wadena.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

30301 550th Ave.
(1 mile west and 1.5 miles north)
Deer Creek, MN 56527

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Service

APR 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Craig & Linda Buchholz lit a candle in memory of Kathryn A. Harthan*



Craig & Linda Buchholz - April 08, 2016 at 08:02 PM

LM

“ *Lucy, Logan and Mitch purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Kathryn A. Harthan.*



Lucy, Logan and Mitch - April 08, 2016 at 11:23 AM

JS

“ *Aunt Katy, I will miss being with you sharing memories, including all the good humor & laughter. I know that you are in heaven having a good time.*

LOVE, MIKE

jenny sorter - April 08, 2016 at 10:52 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kathryn A. Harthan.*



April 07, 2016 at 01:19 PM

LM

“ We have happy memories of when we first met Katy in Iowa during a cross-country road trip-- and later, as we all celebrated at Agustya and Amber's wedding. We will always remember Katy's liveliness and warmth toward us.

Katy, we'll always remember you with a smile. Thanks for being you.

-- Laurie and Gyan Mehta

Laurie and Gyan Mehta - April 06, 2016 at 11:47 AM

AM

“ Grandma Katy would never let me win at Steal Away Rummy; I always had to beat her fair and square. I have so many fond memories of us playing that card game together. I have accumulated many of her hand-crocheted afghans which I will always cherish. I miss you Grandma! I know you are up in heaven causing some mischief :-).

Love, Amber

Amber Mehta - April 06, 2016 at 01:32 AM