



Lucy Lorence

March 7, 1924 - November 18, 2020

Loving mother to Jim, Joanne, Jon, Susan, and Barbara, doting grandmother to Katie, Michael, Julie, Kim, Jessica, Marc, and Andrew, and extremely proud great-grandmother, to Tanner, Mason, Taylor, Madden, Landry, Kenji, Ishaan, Oliver, Alice, Sal, and Myles, all of whom will carry on her legacy of kindness, selfless service and cheerfulness.

Lucille Ion Lorence was born on March 7, 1924, to her parents Dwight Harold Mateer and Inez Irene Awtry, at home in rural Mahaska County, Iowa. She spent most of her life in Oskaloosa and, after high school, met and married Vern Lorence, who predeceased her in 1995. She loved history, particularly the Civil War, and claimed to know not only everyone who lived in Mahaska County but most people who ever drove through the county. Lucy always worked outside the home, sometimes holding two or three jobs, and championed working mothers. Despite a heavy work schedule, she was very involved in P.T.A., Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and raising money for the debate team. She rarely missed her children's instrumental and vocal music concerts, plays, piano recitals, dance recitals, little league games, and football games. She loved attending her grandchildren's softball games, track meets, tennis matches, and cross country meets. She was a SuperFan! No matter what her family did, she was there to stand and applaud. In fact, one of the greatest gifts she gave her children was encouragement. Academic education was a huge priority because she never had the opportunity to go to college. Her mantra was, "Set sky-high goals, work your tail off, and you can do anything." Her children paid attention and became a University Professor, Attorney, Engineer, Teacher, and Business Manager. In some ways, Lucy was ahead of her time. She invented Meals on Wheels long before it had a name. She was a great cook and delivered food to people all over Oskaloosa who were needy or were elderly and could no longer drive. She made it very clear that every person deserved our kindness and respect, no matter their station in life, even when her whining children were commandeered to help with the deliveries. She also seemed to have an antenna that lit her up when someone was being treated unfairly. It incensed her, and she was a formidable advocate for them and their cause. We call that social justice now.

Lastly, one of Lucy's unforgettable characteristics was her colorful style. She was always dressed to the nines with matching shoes, purses (gloves sometimes), hats, and jewelry.

She had beautifully coiffed lush white hair often topped off with a hat and her signature bright red lipstick. Her shoes, hats, and jewelry are legendary. She was a vision. She even got 'dressed up' when she went out to mow the lawn. She was a classy lady.

She was a caregiver for years and years to her mother, husband, and brother Harold (all of whom predeceased her.) She cared for her friends, as well, and drove them everywhere, picked up their prescriptions, and brought them groceries, never wanting any recognition for it. She led a purposeful fun-filled life, and it brought her great happiness. The philosopher Montaigne said that the surest sign of wisdom is constant cheerfulness. Lucy was always cheerful and made it her mission to remember a person's name and find something kind to say to them. She was spunky, outspoken, patriotic, and an eternal optimist but even she was no match for Covid. She died on November 18, 2020, at the age of 96, at Heritage House in Atlantic, Iowa.

Lucy's family includes her children: Jim (Lynne) Lorence of Ankeny, Iowa, Joanne "Jody" (John Otto) Lorence of Atlantic, Iowa, Jon (Tanya) Lorence of Houston, TX, step-daughters: Barbara Anderson of Lakeland, Florida, and Susan Lorence of West De Moines, Iowa; grandchildren: Julie (Rakesh) Kumar of Champagne, Ill, Kim (Wesley) Arunsiripate of Ames, Iowa, Marc (Sarah) Lorence of Des Moines, Iowa, Jessica (Will Zellweger) Otto of Washington D.C., Andrew (Muriel) Otto of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; step-grandchildren: Michael Anderson of Lakeland, Florida, and Katie (Kevin) Hamer of Lakeland, Florida; great-grandchildren: Tanner, Mason and Taylor Hamer, Ishaan Kumar, Madden and Landry Kane, Kenji Arunsiripate, Myles Lorence, Oliver Zellweger, and Alice and Sal Otto.

There will be a public visitation for her at Langkamp Funeral Home in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on Tuesday, November 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; due to COVID-19 precautions, the family will not be present. A private family burial will be held on November 25 at Forest Cemetery. When it is finally safe to travel, the family plans to have a memorial for her to share stories and celebrate her life. Until then, take care of yourselves and those you love. Memorial gifts can be made in Lucy's name to the charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST

Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

NOV **Open Visitation** 10:00AM - 06:00PM

24

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory

2116 North 3rd St., Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

NOV **Private Graveside Funeral Service**

25

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - November 28, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of the death of your mom. She always brought a smile to everyone. I still have the Oskaloosa pillow that she gave to me on a visit to Washington, and I think of her every time that I see it. Jody, remember when you got new carpeting and I thought it was so pretty, but really I was just looking at all the throw rugs your mom had put down so the carpet didn't get dirty. She was something!
a wonderful woman. My sympathies go out to the entire family.
Barb Campbell Cloherty

Barbara Cloherty - December 06, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ I rented a house from Vern and Lucy in the 1990's. They were much more than landlords, they became like an extra set of grandparents to me. I often stopped in for a visit on my way home from work, and sometimes ended up staying for an hour or two. I loved hearing stories about their children, grandchildren, and "grand-dogs". Lucy was so kind, always checking in to see if I was doing Ok or needed anything. She encouraged me to be the best I could be, to work hard, and to treat others with kindness. She had an eye for beauty. She planted lovely geraniums in my yard, brought pretty things to decorate my home, and always dressed herself with such class and style. My condolences to her family. She was a great Lady!

Linda Taylor - December 01, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ Jill Ewing lit a candle in memory of Lucy Lorence



Jill Ewing - November 25, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ I have known Lucy since I was 14 years old. She was a member of our TOPS group and immediately she took me under her wing. I was always amazed at how she matched every piece of her clothing: from her earrings to her shoes. She was a woman of class, and not just because of her clothes but also because of her personality. As I got older, she was always there to talk to, to lean on when I was down, and she never let me down. She would bring me little trinket, gifts that may not mean much to others but to a low income woman who didn't have much, it meant the world to me: a keychain with my name on it, letters to encourage me on my weight loss and to remind me how special I was. In my early married years, my husband and I were struggling financially and many months, couldn't make ends meet. She asked me what was wrong one night at TOPS, and I broke down and told her what was going on and how I didn't know how I was going to have food for the rest of the week because our electricity bill had to be paid. She gave me a hug and we went into our TOPS meeting. Afterward, she told me and my husband to follow her to Fareway where she bought us groceries to last us until payday. Her generosity and love overwhelmed me. She wouldn't let us pay her back either. After I left TOPS, I didn't see much of her anymore but we would write each other letters at least once a month. I knew she had moved away, and even wondered a month ago how she was doing. I'm deeply saddened that she has passed and wish I could pay my last respects in person. I look forward to her memorial when we can tell more stories about her and celebrate her life. I love you Lucy...fly high to Heaven and to Jesus' arms

Amy Walker - November 24, 2020 at 11:52 PM



“ I met Lucy many years ago and I must say, she is/was the classiest Lady I ever knew by far! Always smiling, always dressed to the nines, always kind...she was a pleasure to call "friend". She left a positive memory with everyone who had the honor to know her. God rest her soul.

Patti Hernandez - November 23, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ So sorry , I met lucy at tops, she called me little lady, cause I was short. She will be missed!

Georgia binns - November 21, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ Vernon Wells talks frequently,with fondness, of Lucy. We will miss stopping by to see her on our way to Omaha. Her positive attitude and joy for living will be missed along with all the stories of her growing up in Oskaloosa with Vernon. We will miss her red hats. Loved the hats. Loved Lucy.

Dede Horn - November 21, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ I met Lucille in the late 50's. She always had a smile and nice comments. We had mutual friends, Rosemary McMillian and Marybeth Hoffman. Lucille loved to wear hats, she always looked so elegant in the way she was dressed. I remember a few years ago she came to our door. Marybeth had told her I was an Elvis fan. She brought me beautiful Elvis Christmas tree ornament. She had been to North Pole in Indiana and bought me this. It has hung on our tree every year, and will continue. You will be greatly missed. RIP my friend.

Sue Gerard - November 20, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ Lucy went to school with my older sister. I knew her all my life. She was a great Lady .

Dena Roorda - November 21, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ Sorry for your loss, Lucy was my grandparents neighbor. Louis and Dorothy Brunt in the blue house across the street. Lucy was always friendly and outgoing and TRAVELING, I thought it was Awsome that being alone and a senior citizen and traveling took alot of Spunk I thought alot of her. She did not retire in a rocking chair she retired and Enjoyed Life.

Sherry Brunt - November 21, 2020 at 09:35 PM



“ Lucy was a very kind and thoughtful neighbor. Lucy was always dressed up for her daily activities, and she always stood up for what she believed in. She will be greatly missed!



Harry & Loretta Luzadder - November 20, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ Diann VerMeer lit a candle in memory of Lucy Lorence



Diann VerMeer - November 20, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ I got to stop in Atlantic and visit with her a few years ago. I to will always remember her matching jewelry and clothes.

Georgia - November 20, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ I got to know Lucy through the Red Hat Hotties. Of course with her being the fancy dresser, she fit right in. Enjoy every event she got to attend. Missed her when she left to go to be by her kids. You kids were lucky to have a mother like Lucy. RIP Lucy, your work here is done.

Karen McBeth - November 20, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ Sending condolences to all Lucy’s family. I was so lucky to grow up in her neighborhood and she never forgot me. She’d always say, There’s Charm’in Sharmin! Which is what Vern always called me... there will never be another Lucy! What a kind grand lady! I received her Christmas letters every year as long as she sent them & looked forward to catching up with the news she shared. Hugs to you all!
Sharmin Newell Lathrop & family.

Sharmin Lathrop - November 20, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ What a special lady Lucy was! My parents, Don and Mary Mattix, were very fond of her. My uncle Dwight Mattix went to school with Lucy and she held a special place in his heart! Whenever he came to Oskaloosa from Washington State he would make it a point to go visit her and reminisce! She will be fondly remembered!

Sherry (Mattix) Porter - November 20, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ I loved Lucy! She was a classy lady and so friendly. I remember calling her when we were having special sales at Seiferts, especially jewelry. She was a great friend and as well as one of my favorite customers. My condolences to the family.

Karen Powell - November 20, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Thinking of Lucy and her family with warm memories. Thank you for the commemoration of her life in the beautifully written obituary.

Erma Johnson

Erma Johnson - November 20, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ Judy Belzer lit a candle in memory of Lucy Lorence



Judy Belzer - November 20, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Sending my deepest thoughts and prayers to ALL of you! I have so many GREAT memories of sharing time with your family - your Mom, working with your Dad, and sometimes being an errand girl between Osky and Central College. Love to All of you!

Shirley Bloodsworth - November 20, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ Cliff And Leilani VandeWall lit a candle in memory of Lucy Lorence



Cliff and Leilani VandeWall - November 20, 2020 at 02:01 PM