



Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven

November 16, 1956 - June 17, 2021

Kerrilyn Kaye Loynachan Nunnikhoven, 64, passed away Thursday, June 17, 2021, at her home near Oskaloosa, IA. Kerrilyn was a profound woman with a beautiful soul. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, nurse, and farmer. Kerrilyn enriched her children's lives through experiences with the arts, travel and agriculture. She encouraged their higher education and made every effort to make their dreams a reality through international study and professional experiences, both at home and abroad. She was a life-long learner and led by example through kindness and generosity. She quietly lived her faith and modeled her values through action. The well-being and needs of others were always a core concern. Kerrilyn will be deeply missed by her family and those who knew her.

Kerrilyn, the daughter of David Elton and Helen Louise (Harsin) Loynachan, was born November 16, 1956 in Oskaloosa, IA. Kerrilyn was baptized at Plymouth Presbyterian Church near their family farm. Third Reformed Church and the Girls' League were central parts of her young adult life. She grew up with her elder sister, Jane Ann, and her twin, Sherrilyn, on their beautiful century farm outside of Knoxville, IA. Her great grandfather, a second-generation immigrant from Scotland, bought the land in Marion County in 1854 and settled it in 1857. Kerrilyn's family valued their Scottish heritage and took great pride in their 1860's homestead, farming operation, and land. She attended school in Knoxville, was a National Honor Society member, and

enjoyed singing four years in the choir. She graduated with the high school class of 1975.

Kerrilyn and her husband Allen were married on December 31, 1976, in Pella, IA at Third Reformed Church. They made their home on the Nunnikhoven Farm near Oskaloosa. Kerrilyn's children include two daughters, Meredith Nunnikhoven, Allison (Jacob Howe) Nunnikhoven, a son, Chandler (Melinda) Nunnikhoven, and four grandchildren, Kai Dino, Jaymis, Doris, and Levi Nunnikhoven.

Kerrilyn attended Dordt College and completed her LPN (1977) and RN (1980) at Indian Hills Community College. She earned her BSN at Marycrest College (1992), and continued graduate hours at the University of Iowa. She invested 37 years at Mahaska Health Partnership in Med Surg, ER, Intensive Care, and Surgery. Patients were always her number one priority. In 2014, Kerrilyn was nominated and awarded as one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses. The award recognized Kerrilyn's compassion, courage, and commitment to the profession. After Kerrilyn retired from Mahaska Health Partnership in 2013, she continued her nursing career in various roles. Most recently, she gave COVID-19 vaccinations, continuing this work into the week of her passing. She believed this was very important.

Kerrilyn was a 4th generation farmer and active steward of the land. She farmed alongside her parents and siblings on their childhood Century Farm and used her knowledge to assist her husband Allen on their farm. She spearheaded many conservation efforts such as monarch, pollinator, and pheasant habitats, along with regenerative row-crop farming focused on no-till and cover crop practices. Over the years, "The Home Place" became a palette of color, texture, and form through the installation of uniquely curated flowers, shrubs, and trees. This passion grew into Barnswallow Flowers which reflected her entrepreneurial spirit. Kerrilyn and her daughter Meredith built

the business through education, training, and local collaborations within their rural community. Kerrilyn deeply enjoyed farming with her family and creating community through the farm. For Kerrilyn, it was paramount to diversify the farm through different agricultural commodities to secure their family farm legacy.

Kerrilyn served 12 years as a board member of the Oskaloosa Public Library, and was a founding member of Women, Land, and Legacy of Mahaska and Marion counties. She was a proponent of women's higher education, especially in agriculture. She continued to support Oskaloosa Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School after her children graduated. Kerrilyn continually encouraged and affirmed the younger generation, peers, friends, and family.

Kerrilyn was preceded in death by her parents David Elton and Helen (Harsin) Loynachan and her parents-in-law, Abe and Harriet (Vander Schaaf) Nunnikhoven.

Kerrilyn valued rural community access to wellness and education services. The Mahaska County YMCA and Oskaloosa Public Library provided valuable experiences and community for her family. Memorials may be given to the Mahaska County YMCA or the Oskaloosa Public Library in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven. Please send memorial donations to Langkamp Funeral Chapel at 2116 North 3rd St, Oskaloosa, IA.

The family deeply appreciates the many expressions of care during this time of loss. As were Kerrilyn's wishes, a private Celebration of Life will be held.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *What a huge loss to Kerrilyn's family and friends but Heavens gain for sure!!! Kerrilyn- Oh my what can I say but she was cherished !! Kerrilyn, Sherrilyn and I go back to the Junior League days at 3rd Reformed Church. Our friendship remained thru all the years. There are not enough adjectives to describe this beautiful friend!!! So glad I got a chance (with my father) to tour the farm with all the beautiful flowers. She was so proud of what she and Meredith were doing with Barnswallow flowers. A true Legacy she has left for the generations to come!! Hugs and prayers to Kerrilyns family!!!*

Lola Kenworthy - July 09, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven.*



July 04, 2021 at 02:38 PM



“ *Mike And Ruth Bushnell lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven*



Mike and Ruth Bushnell - July 02, 2021 at 10:56 PM

CS

“ Deepest sympathy to the Nunnikhoven family. I first met Kerrilyn when her children were involved with children's theater. She and Alan raised a wonderful family and she was so proud of all of you! We had many visits discussing our children. Kerrilyn had a kind heart and was such a hard worker. I had a chance to visit with her in May when I went to pick up peonies at the farm. Please know that you all are in my heart and in my prayers.

Candace Slobe - June 25, 2021 at 08:59 AM

BN

“ Billie Nance lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven



Billie Nance - June 25, 2021 at 08:50 AM

CV

“ I don't know why my 2 previous posts won't allow me to put in my married name of Vos

Carolyn Meinders Vos - June 24, 2021 at 10:22 PM

CV

“ Carolyn Meinders Vos lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven



Carolyn Meinders Vos - June 24, 2021 at 10:16 PM

CV

I don't know why my married name of Vos doesn't show up on the 2 previous posts & it's probably because I haven't mastered the skill of concise writing.

Carolyn Meinders Vos - June 24, 2021 at 10:19 PM

CV

“*Sympathies to all the Nunnikhoven families in the loss of your loved One! Chandler might have forgotten how him & I met a few years back. I'm a volunteer for information booth in Pella One day when it wasn't very busy, I got to talking with him as was raising the flags in the park. We were talking & he told me his last name was Nunnikhoven. He then told me his Mom was Kerilyn & she had a twin sister Sherilyn. I'd told him of a story that was in Farm Wife News magazine about them being twins, their parents the Loynachan's & their farming operation. I remember reading about Verlan Nikkel & Sherilyn who I think weren't married yet. Maybe Sherilyn & Allen were married but of course that peaked Chandlers memory & I told him to talk to his Mom because I wasn't sure of the details. He did check with his Mom & she told him that it was true. Every time we see each other now we greet each other. My maiden name was Meinders(Tim & Della) by Rose Hill & I still know where the family farm is. It's so hard to let loved ones go but as believers we can take comfort in knowing we'll see them again.*”



Carolyn Meinders Vos - June 24, 2021 at 10:15 PM

MH

“*Mary Ann Horn lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven*”



Mary Ann Horn - June 24, 2021 at 09:23 PM

MB

“ Mike And Ruth Bushnell lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven



Mike and Ruth Bushnell - June 24, 2021 at 07:55 PM

MB

“ Lots of laughs and good memories with all the softball games and get togethers! Sending prayers your way Nunnikhoven family

Mike and Ruth Bushnell - June 24, 2021 at 07:53 PM

CA

“ Sherrilyn, sorry to hear of your loss. Cherish all of your wonderful memories. Thoughts and prayers for your family. ((Hugs)) 🙏❤️
Cindy Abel

Cindy Abel - June 23, 2021 at 07:37 PM

DB

“ I remember growing up on a farm not far from Kerrilyn and Sherrilyn... we rode the bus together, and I considered them my life-long friends.... I am so sad to hear of Kerrilyn's passing... prayers to her entire family... thinking of you, Sherrilyn... 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Deb Bachman - June 23, 2021 at 06:22 PM

VW

“ I'm so sorry for Kerrilyn's family. She was such a positive and kind, caring person.

Virginia Walker - June 23, 2021 at 02:37 PM

KP

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. I remember her constant encouragement and positivity.

Kristen Parks - June 22, 2021 at 10:51 PM

CC

“ Saddened to hear this. Kerrilyn was a wonderful person. Condolences and prayers for Sherrilyn and the family 🥹🙏🙏



Cathy Courtney - June 22, 2021 at 10:28 PM

BR

“ She was a great nurse and very nice person. Prayers for all her family

Bruce - June 22, 2021 at 07:33 PM

KA

“ So sorry to hear about Kerrilyn. She was a nice classmate. My thoughts go out to her family and Sherrilyn.
Kim (Goff) Allen

Kim (Goff) Allen - June 22, 2021 at 03:21 PM

JB

“ Judy Belzer lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven



Judy Belzer - June 22, 2021 at 02:17 PM

BJ

“ I shared many classes with the twins through our school years and considered them friends. Kerrilyn was hard-working, gentle, and kind; a genuinely nice person. I'm so sad to learn of her passing and extend my deepest sympathy to her family and especially Sherrilyn.

Becky Milledge Johnson - June 22, 2021 at 07:54 AM

KV

“ Kerrilyn was a deeply loving and caring person and. nurse ... she will surely be missed!! Prayers to the family!
Ken and Verjean Rexroth

ken and VerjeanRexroth - June 22, 2021 at 05:57 AM

KV

Kerrilyn was a deeply loving and caring person and nurse ... she will surely be missed!! Prayers to the family!!
Ken and Verjean Rexroth

Ken and VerjeanRexroth - June 22, 2021 at 06:02 AM

AK

“ Kerrilyn was a loving and caring person. She will be deeply missed. Prayers and hugs to the family. Leon and Arlys Van Koo

Arlys Van Kooten - June 22, 2021 at 12:20 AM

SG

“ Thoughts and prayers to family and friends!

sandra george - June 21, 2021 at 09:39 PM

JV

“ Kerrilyn, will be greatly missed. Always a dear person who cared deeply. Jerry & Sondra VanDerPol

Jerry and Sondra VanDerPol - June 21, 2021 at 09:37 PM

JA

“ *Julie Adams Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Kerrilyn Nunnikhoven*



Julie Adams Armstrong - June 21, 2021 at 09:18 PM

MH

“ *I just don't have words to say how sorry I am. It wasn't long ago that we swam together at the y. Such a soft spoken and kind person. Sending love and prayers to you.*
Melanie Hirl

Melanie Hirl - June 21, 2021 at 06:50 PM