



## Lauralee Ruth Staley

April 11, 1925 - July 21, 2016

Lauralee Staley, 91, of Oskaloosa, passed away, Thursday, July 21, 2016, at the Mahaska Health Partnership Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa.

Lauralee Ruth Staley, daughter of Lloyd and Gladys (Warrick) Williams, was born, April 11, 1925, in Delta, Iowa. She attended country school and was a 1943 graduate of Delta High School. She then went on to graduate from William Penn College earning her Teacher's Certificate. Lauralee taught at several country schools early in her career, including the Prine Country School and then Franklin Elementary in Ottumwa. The majority of her teaching career was spent at Webster School in Oskaloosa where she taught the 4th grade. July 22, 1945, she was united in marriage to Floyd Staley. In 1976, Lauralee and Floyd became co-owners of the Canteen Lunch in Ottumwa, with her sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Earnest McBeth, they operated the restaurant until 2015 when they sold their business.

Lauralee was a member of the Central United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School. She was also an avid collector of antiques, particularly from the Victorian Era. She very much enjoyed her time at the Canteen and spending it with the "Canteen Cupcakes". Lauralee loved to be around family and friends.

Her family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Donna (Larry) Logan of Ottumwa, Iowa; granddaughters, Kaila and McKenzie Wheeldon of University Park, Iowa; a sister, Shirley (Earnest) McBeth of Ottumwa, Iowa; two nephews, Mark (Kathe) McBeth of Charlotte, NC and Chris (Jennifer) McBeth of Laurel, MD.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Floyd Staley, Lauralee was preceded in death by a daughter, Bette Wheeldon.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lauralee Ruth Staley*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *I miss you everyday!*

**Tiffany Tewell** - August 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace Lauralee. I will always remember you & the great visits we had. You'll always be a special person in my book.*

**Kristie Lynch** - July 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *A fun and caring wonderful LADY!*

**Michael Hunter** - July 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Mrs. Staley (I could never get passed calling her Mrs. Staley) was my all time favorite teacher while I was going through school. She understood me and I connected with her from the very first. She had a surgery that year, and I had one myself so that our together days were decreased. But I loved her so very much! If ANYONE knows where we could find the poem "Moo Cow Moo", I would be elated. She read that poem to us often while we all sat in rapt attention. I remember learning my multiplication facts so that I would have her smiling approval. I can still do 100 facts in a minute, because of her encouragement. She was an angel in the truest sense. Our family would sing from time to time at White Oaks and she would always be so appreciative and bubbly to see us. I will miss her so very, very much. She touched my life and made a permanent mark!

---

**Jan McKay** - July 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Treva McBeth I will remember the good times we had with Lauralee and Floyd playing pinochle at their jprise pm Mew Year's Eve/ You are the greatest friend I ever had.

---

**Treva McBeth** - July 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

---

**Garland** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. I just visited with her a couple weeks ago when our quartet sang at her 'home'. I have known her and Floyd ever since I was elected mayor in UP and worked on their home. She was a special lady.

---

July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ Lauralee was my 6th grade teacher in University Park. I have wonderful memories of that year and of our friendship in years afterwards. She was a dedicated and creative teacher, adding extras to our curriculum such as Home Ec and teaching us two part harmony after school. She was a wonderful lady!

---

**Penny Ellis** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I did crafts at the nursing home for a few years. Lauralee was delightful. She did everything on her own and her finished piece was always very "Lauralee!" I enjoyed her - she was a good role model for me. (I've included a photo of "hands" and I'm pretty sure Lauralee's are in there. Let me know if they are and if you'd like other photos of the crafts. I always hesitated taking pictures of their faces for privacy reasons - I loved posting them on FB.)

---

**Lorrie Ludwick** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Sorry for your loss. Lauralee always had a way of brightening your day. I knew Floyd and Lauralee well from Mahaska Drug.

---

**Amy Fenton** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ I have great memories of Lauralee. Though I did not teach with her, she would have fantastic holiday parties at her house during my early years of teaching at Webster. She and Floyd were the best hosts you could imagine. I was always in awe of the sheer number of decorations they had in their house. Lauralee confided in me that they kept all the holiday cheer in a storage building in the back yard. IT was so fun! Wonderful lady, always kind and thoughtful! My sympathies to the family.

---

**Ann Fender** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ One of my favorite teachers in elementary school. Prayer go out to the family.

---

**Sharon Coop** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Lauralee was one of my favorite people in the world. She made everything beautiful and interesting. She was the best at decorating her home for Christmas and had nightly Christmas parties for awhile. She inspired me every time I was with her, and you can't say that about many people.

---

**Rene Robbins** - July 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Lauralee was a very special lady to our family and always enjoyed Christmas open house with her family....She made Christmas extra special with all of her decorations and goodies she shared when she opened her house to everyone.Our Sympathies to her family ..Duane and Carol Renaud

---

July 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM