



Mary Porter Sunstrum

January 14, 1923 - December 18, 2020

Mary Porter Sunstrum passed away Friday, December 18, 2020, at Mahaska Health, just shy of her 98th birthday in January.

Mary's family includes a brother, John (Jeanne) Porter of Oskaloosa and a sister, Martha Ingels, of Mesa, AZ, a daughter, Barbara (Jim) Lindenmayer, of Ottumwa; sons, John (Patti), of Ankeny, and Peter (Susan), of Redmond, Wash.; granddaughters: Kate (Jeff) Sunstrum Niedermann, of Marshalltown; EJ (Timothy) Sunstrum Lillwitz, of Ankeny; a grandson, C. Andrew (Brooke) Sunstrum, of Ankeny; granddaughters: Julie (Shawn) Lindenmayer Smith of Gainesville, FL; Diane (Kristian) Lindenmayer Cassimire, of Macomb, IL; and Laney and Nelly Sunstrum of Redmond, Wash.; and great-grandchildren: Porter and Teagan Niedermann, Elliott and Callie Lillwitz, and Mikah and Emery Cassimire. She was preceded in death by her parents and her best friend and loving husband, Bill Sunstrum. At her request, the body was cremated with private interment at a later date.

Mary was born January 21, 1923, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, to RV and Irene Barnhouse Porter. She grew up in Oskaloosa and graduated with the class of '41. Mary attended Stephen's College in Columbia, MO for two years and later attended the University of Iowa where she was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority. Mary and William Barnes Sunstrum were united in marriage on June 25, 1946, after Bill was discharged from the Army with the 281st Combat Engineers at the end of WW II. They made their home in Oskaloosa, where Bill joined his family business, Sunstrum's Store for Men and Boys.

Mary enjoyed classical music and played both the piano and the violin. She played with a small group of friends for several years at each other's houses for fun. She sang in the choir at St. Paul's Congregational United Church of Christ for many years. Mary truly enjoyed knitting and was an excellent knitter. She also enjoyed playing golf and following Iowa Hawkeye sports. Mary vacationed with her family over the years at her favorite place, Gull Lake, MN. Mary's family was extremely important to her, and she treasured her lifelong Oskaloosa friends.

Memorial donations may be made to the Oskaloosa High School Orchestra. Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling Mary's final arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Porter Sunstrum*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *I would see Mary often at the “Beauty Shop” when I would take my mom. They always exchanged a warm greeting to each other. My mom was a Mary also. They had known each other for a long time. I always loved the house she lived in. It looked so cozy and inviting. The Sunstrum name was a good Oskaloosa name. There are just a few left in Osky of the past leaders of our community. My the comfort of memories be with your families.*

Kathy Job Larsen

Kathy Job Larsen - December 30, 2020 at 10:52 PM



“ *Barb and family,*

So very sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Keeping you in thought and prayer.

Emily Wallace

Emily Wallace - December 22, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ *My dear Aunt Mary. You were a class act with a great sense of humor! Your giggles of delight will always make me smile I will carry on your name proudly for the life you lived, the family you loved and the legacy you leave. ❤️*

Mary Ruegge - December 22, 2020 at 02:36 PM

SW

“*Mary was such a wonderful neighbor and friend. We will miss visiting with her. She was a person of great compassion and had a genuine care about all people.*

Sue and Jim

Sue Ward - December 22, 2020 at 12:04 PM

AF

“*Mary was a very valued friend and will be sincerely missed. I will truly miss her stories and her wisdom. I imagine her enjoying conversations with Bill and Chuck in Heaven.*

Ann M Fender - December 22, 2020 at 10:07 AM

SL

“*What a beautiful soul! she was a moral compass growing up. May God give you all grace and peace this holiday season. Heaven gained an angel!*

Susan Grafke Leedom - December 22, 2020 at 09:21 AM

AW

“*Mary was always a delight. As a neighbor, as a patient, and as a Facebook friend. I feel lucky and honored to have made her acquaintance. I remember 10 years or so ago she was in the office, asking about my experiences running a marathon. Then she said, “I would like to do that, I suppose it’s too late?” God bless you Mary, you are loved!*

Anne Whitis - December 21, 2020 at 07:01 PM

MB

“ I enjoyed spending a some time with Mary this past winter (pre-covid). We had a lovely chat about our families and Oskaloosa in general. I could tell she loved this community and really enjoyed keeping up on all the happenings and good things happening. It was a wonderful visit.
My sympathy to you all as I am sure you will miss her greatly.
Madonna Bowie

Madonna Bowie - December 21, 2020 at 03:10 PM