



Peggy Grafke

July 11, 1935 - March 29, 2024

Peggy Grafke, 88, of Oskaloosa, passed away Friday, March 29, 2024, at her daughter's home in Oskaloosa.

Peggy Ann Williams Grafke was born July 11, 1935, to Frank Thomas and Jessie Amy Williams in Kansas City, Kansas. Peggy grew up in Kansas City and graduated from Washington High School in Bethel, Kansas. After graduation, Peggy went to Emporia State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas.

In 1950, Peggy began dating Henry Edgar Grafke, Jr. She was a sophomore, and he was a senior in high school at Washington High. She knew then that she had met the love of her life. They continued their relationship as both continued to Emporia State for college. They married on September 4, 1954. Peggy gave up her college career at the time to work on campus while Edgar completed his teaching degree. Upon Edgar's graduation, they moved from Emporia to Olathe, Kansas, where Edgar began his 3-year commitment to the U.S. Navy. After their commitment to the Navy came to a close, the couple moved back to Kansas City and started their new family. At about the same time, Edgar began his teaching career at their familiar old alma mater, Washington High School.

Peggy was a stay-at-home mom for 13 years, raising their three children: Ed,

David, and Susan.

In 1968, the family moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where Edgar began teaching art as a professor at William Penn College. Peggy pursued her college and teaching degree at William Penn; she graduated in 1975.

Peggy began her career as a paraprofessional at Webster Elementary School in Oskaloosa. She later became a reading teacher at the reading clinic in the Oskaloosa School Administration, Central Office building. From there, Peggy began teaching full-time in her new kindergarten classroom at Webster Elementary School, where she remained for the rest of her teaching career until she retired in 1997.

Peggy excelled with the little ones and claimed all who she taught as “her children.” It was an organic sense of her legacy that many of her kids made pilgrimages back to visit her over the years. Her students grew, progressed through the grades, and eventually graduated and charted their own life’s course. Many then started their own families and were happy that their kids received the same opportunity as they did in kindergarten; seeing their own kids start their student lives with Mrs. Grafke was very special, as so many attested to over the years. Mrs. Grafke was also well known for hugging every child at the end of every day! She was named teacher of the year in 1983.

As her own children left the nest, Peggy kept herself busy with all the little ones at school, but she also found fulfillment in service. She was a charter member of P.E.O. Chapter N.N. Peggy also served on the Oskaloosa Library Board for many years and as an advocate for children on the Foster Care Advocacy Review Board for the state of Iowa. She also served on the Resident Advocacy Board for The Northern Mahaska Nursing and Care Facility for many years. Peggy was a patron of the arts in Oskaloosa along with her husband, Edgar. They were members of The First Congregational Church in Oskaloosa for many years. Most recently, Peggy attended The

LifeHouse Community Church in Oskaloosa. Peggy's love for Jesus was evident in the way she lived her life, placing the service toward others before herself.

She loved life to its fullest. Peggy's family was her life, and she unconditionally loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They were the lights of her life. Peggy also had many pets through the years and spent much of her retirement years caring for her many dogs, including Don, Annie and Gracie, her current "bless-a-hearts", and some lovable cats. They were also her family, and she loved making their dog food and "dog cookies" each week. And they loved her very much in return.

Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Edgar Grafke Jr.; her parents; a step-father, Harold E. Toot; a brother, Jerry T. Williams; a step-sister, Marguerite Green and her husband, Bob; and a step-brother-in-law, Dean Ward.

Peggy leaves behind her family which includes her son, Henry Edgar Grafke III of Oskaloosa, David A. Grafke (Glen Baker) of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Susan A. Leedom (Rick) of Oskaloosa, her grandsons, Elliott T. Grafke (Jessica) and great-grandsons: Hamilton M. & Woodrow H. of Belgrade, MT, Saif Grafke (Jaynee) and great-grandson, Kase H. of Oskaloosa; her step-granddaughter, Teah LeedomVersendaal, and family; her nieces, Laurie Williams (Kate) and Amy Rhoades (Mark); her step-sister, Naomi Ward; along with her sisters-in-law, Marge Grafke-Doby (Robert), Eva Hinds (Hal) and a brother-in-law, Stuart Grafke (Jenny); and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Peggy's wish was that everyone remember her for her hugs and her peanut butter cookies!

Memorial services for Peggy will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at LifeHouse Community Church with Pastors Adam Kyle, Steve Howe, and Guy Almon officiating. Interment will be in Forest Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., Tuesday, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Mahaska Health Foundation to be directed to Hospice Services.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

The family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m.

Memorial Service

APR 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Lifehouse Community Church
1513 S Market St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *The Grafke's were such a huge part of my growing up. Peggy was the sweetest, kindest woman, a great mother to great kids. I had the pleasure of sitting at her kitchen table a few weeks after Edgar passed....and she was still absolutely the best. David, Eddie, and Susan.....Love you guys.*

Robert Schultze - April 05, 2024 at 11:10 AM

CO

“ *Peggy was a special beautiful person. Loved her and her family. Sympathy and prayers. Connie Overbergen*

Connie and Ted Overbergen - April 03, 2024 at 07:18 PM

JB

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family. She will missed.*

Jim and Vicki Barnett - April 03, 2024 at 05:56 PM

RB

“ *Peggy had a unique way of making one feel very special and loved. She will be missed.*



Richard Brown & Cindy Mott Brown - April 03, 2024 at 04:32 PM

KB

“ *Always with a smile and a hug
One of God's true angels*

kathy beal - April 02, 2024 at 04:26 PM

CS

“ Mrs. Grafke was a great Kindergarten teacher and I am glad that I got to be one of her students. I am sure going to miss her warm hugs she would always give us. Heaven has gained a wonderful angel. She will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.



Chelsea C Skinner (Williams)

Chelsea Skinner - April 02, 2024 at 02:53 PM

BC

“ Brooke, Courtney & Candice purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Peggy Grafke.



Brooke, Courtney & Candice - April 02, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ 123 files added to the album LifeTributes



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - April 01, 2024 at 04:30 PM

AB

“ Anna Barraza lit a candle in memory of Peggy Grafke



Anna Barraza - April 01, 2024 at 12:31 PM

JE

“ Julie Van Englehoven lit a candle in memory of Peggy Grafke



Julie Van Englehoven - April 01, 2024 at 12:12 PM

JV

“ Mrs. Grafke was such a sweetheart. My mother, Beverly Paulson enjoyed visiting with her daily and enjoyed sharing with her laughs, talking about grandkids, and just each others company. A beautiful woman inside and out. Sympathy to Ed, Dave, Susan and all of the family. Heaven has gained another angel.

Jeannene Veenstra - April 01, 2024 at 04:06 AM

SC

“ Mrs. Grafke was such a special person. She truly made all children feel loved. Her hugs were the best part of the day. Prayers to her family.



Shelli Cavan - March 31, 2024 at 09:39 PM

SC

“ Sara Crosby lit a candle in memory of Peggy Grafke



Sara Crosby - March 31, 2024 at 07:45 PM

TS

“ We are all blessed to have the opportunity to know Peggy! She is so talented at sharing Gods love with everyone, in such the way, as one of his Angels. May peggy live eternal in the heavens, through family and friends on earth in the spirit, providing continuous peacefulness in love and harmony.

Tyler Michael Sirovy - March 31, 2024 at 10:53 AM

SU

Thank you Tyler

Susanleedom1963@gmail.com - March 31, 2024 at 06:33 PM

EG

Thank You Tyler

Ed Grafke - March 31, 2024 at 11:04 PM

NC

“ We simply cannot say enough about our beautiful, loving, amazing Mrs. Grafke! She truly loved her students and their families! They grew educationally and personally because of her love! Our prayers to her family whom she cherished so very much.

Nhoeuy and Vickie Ches - March 30, 2024 at 10:15 PM

JH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Peggy was the warmest and most empathetic friend I have ever known. She was never shy about saying "I love you" and giving the best hugs ever. This woman will certainly be missed, but she will also be quickly welcomed in heaven. Rest in Peace, my friend.*

Joyce Hugen - March 30, 2024 at 08:45 PM

HG

“ *Heidi Gilchrist lit a candle in memory of Peggy Grafke*



Heidi Gilchrist - March 30, 2024 at 06:19 PM

HG

“ *I can always say she had a heart of gold if someone was having bad day she would try to help them out I will miss her hugs and smile and she was a great person all a round*

Heidi Gilchrist - March 30, 2024 at 06:18 PM

BN

“ *Becky Netten lit a candle in memory of Peggy Grafke*



Becky Netten - March 30, 2024 at 05:35 PM

SU

Thank you Becky!

Susanleedom1963@gmail.com - March 30, 2024 at 08:01 PM

TH

“ Susan, we r so sorry for ur lose my she RIP & may God wrap his loving arms around U in this difficult time.

Tim & Kim

Tim Hol - March 30, 2024 at 05:06 PM

CP

“ Your mom was so cool. I send my heartfelt condolences to all the family.



Cynthia Posovich - March 30, 2024 at 03:25 PM

AN

“ Sending most sincere condolences to Peggy's family. I feel honored to have had a son that was in Peggy's Kdg class, shared teaching with her at Webster and have been able to consider the sweetest of friends for 34 years. I can't even picture Peggy without that marvelous smile she so easily shared.

ann - March 30, 2024 at 03:24 PM

MW

“ Truly a "one of a kind" person. She was the best teacher that children could start out with. She was always full of love and encouragement. Rest in peace dear Mrs. Grafted. You touched so many!💕💕

Mary Wisbrock - March 30, 2024 at 03:07 PM

KT

“ *If you were lucky enough to be in her kindergarten class, you were one of “her kids” for life! She was one of the kindest people who could make anyone she talked to feel special. Such a beautiful person!*

Kristen Toppin - March 30, 2024 at 02:19 PM