



Shirley Mae Flaherty

August 13, 1938 - April 11, 2020

Shirley Flaherty, 81 of Oskaloosa, Iowa, went to meet her Savior on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at Crystal Heights Care Center.

Shirley Mae Flaherty, the youngest of nine children born to Pearl and Mary (Miller) Hart, was born August 13, 1938, in Eldon, Iowa. Her father was a railroad engineer, and her mother was a housewife. She attended school in Eldon, Iowa.

She was musically inclined from an early age, and she played the piano, guitar, and saxophone. Her love of music led her and her best friend, Doris Jean, to create the duet, Iowa Sweethearts. They participated in talent shows at radio stations all over southern Iowa in the early 1950s. It was one such competition at the Eldon radio station that she met her husband, Pat Flaherty.

Shirley and Pat were married on June 2, 1956, in Eldon, Iowa, in her parents' back yard. Shortly after, they moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she did the bookwork for the veterinarian, Dr. Nuckolls, and worked at Holton's Fashions. From 1969 -1977, she also helped operate Licorice Pudding, a music store she and Pat owned and operated with a miniature golf course in the basement.

She enjoyed being a homemaker. She loved to cook for her family and friends and was known for many famous dishes and desserts. Shirley's home, as was

her heart, was open to all; her children's friends always felt welcome at the Flaherty's. She never lost her love of music; she taught piano and guitar lessons to many students and passed it on to her children and grandchildren. She also loved teaching her grandchildren how to sew and cook. Shirley was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. She truly was a woman of faith, and she spoke and sang of her Savior often.

Her family includes her husband, Pat; their three sons: Kevin (Vickie) Flaherty, Overland Park, Kansas, Kurtis (Kelli) Flaherty, Winston, Georgia, and Michael (Kari) Flaherty, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin; nineteen grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; a sister, Marilyn (Bob) Wells of Des Moines; a brother-in-law, Ed Wright of Ottumwa; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings: Izetta Keasling, Margie Carter, Betty Wright, Richard Hart, Paul Hart, Doris Brooks, and Marie Hurley; and a great-granddaughter, Annie Schultz.

Due to the restrictions put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, a private graveside service will be held for Shirley on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at Forest Cemetery. A Memorial Mass for Shirley will be held at a later date and will be announced. Arrangements entrusted to Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory. The recorded service will also be made available through Langkamp Funeral Chapel's YouTube channel for future viewing. Instead of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Mary's Catholic Church in her memory.

Previous Events

Private Family Service

APR 15 (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Mae Flaherty*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *Shirley and I had many special times together. I really got to know her beautiful soul through a prayer group we both attended. Pat, I wanted to get a card sent to you, however, I wasn't able to get an address for you. My heart goes out to you and your family. She was a dear friend which was a blessing to me. Blanche Denburger*

blanche denburger - May 02, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ *Joleen and Baylee purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Shirley Mae Flaherty.*



Joleen and Baylee - April 15, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ *Kristi Tarr and staff at American Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Shirley Mae Flaherty.*



Kristi Tarr and staff at American Family - April 14, 2020 at 02:48 PM

SH

“ Great memories of Shirley and the music store. She helped me find music that wasn't readily available in the states and some of the early "Sampler" albums.

Steve Hols

Steve Hols - April 14, 2020 at 10:54 AM

CS

“ Best memories of Aunt Shirley.....her wedding was beautiful and Margy and I still talk of the roses on her cake. She took me to her house for a weekend when I was around 10. We made rolls. And the best memory.....after Dad's funeral visitation, she called and woke me out of a dream of Dad. She said, "Awww honey, let Aunt Shae sing you back to sleep." She sang a hymn, told me she loved me and I immediately went back to sleep. ❤️ Catherine Carter Steele

Catherine Carter Steele - April 13, 2020 at 08:15 PM

GS

“ Gene Stine lit a candle in memory of Shirley Mae Flaherty



gene stine - April 13, 2020 at 06:11 PM

GS

pat i know this is a great loss for you may god bless you and your familyat this trying time gene stine

gene stine - April 13, 2020 at 06:13 PM

JJ

“ I have wonderful memories of Mrs. Flaherty. She insisted that I call her Shirley, which was her way of telling me that even though I was a kid, she accepted me. She always loved to joke around with the kids. Every single time I saw her throughout the years in grade school, junior high, senior high, college, and even after I graduated medical school, she asked me if I was ever going to amount to anything. I knew that with that wink in her eye that she had the upmost confidence in me. Lastly, she taught Kurt and me how to make delicious, scrumptious Snickerdoodle cookies- life would not have been the same without Shirley's Snickerdoodles! Love to the Flahertys!

Jim - April 13, 2020 at 04:18 PM

SR

“ Aunt Shirley was my earthly idol while growing up. I remember sitting at her and Doris Jeans feet while they practiced for their radio show, "The Iowa Sweethearts". I enjoyed that time with her immensely. She always had a fun sense of humor. On any given summer morning she would wake me up playing her saxophone on Grandma and Grandpas back porch. She would be on the porch swing and Grandma in the lawn chair. I would go and sit with them. Later in life I would spend the night with Aunt Shae while Uncle Pat was away. I have so many memories I could never put them all down here. I saw Aunt Shae last fall when I took here a crocheted blanket and hat for her dolly. I love you Aunt Shirley and will miss you until we meet again in Heaven. Sandi

Sandi Wright Richmond - April 13, 2020 at 04:06 PM

JL

“ Erin and Meaghan, Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. So sorry for your loss! Larry and Judy

Judy Lewis - April 13, 2020 at 03:55 PM

DM

“ *Dick & Cindy Mott-Brown lit a candle in memory of Shirley Mae Flaherty*



Dick & Cindy Mott-Brown - April 13, 2020 at 03:31 PM

SB

“ *Shelvie Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Shirley Mae Flaherty*



shelvie buchanan - April 13, 2020 at 03:18 PM

SB

Shirley was a very special godly lady that loved everyone. I remember sitting around her piano and singing praises to God for hours with her. We read the bible together alot also. She always talked about going home to be with God and now she is in her happy place with him. I'm so sorry for your loss and I pray for God's peace to be upon you all. God Bless you !!

shelvie buchanan - April 13, 2020 at 04:46 PM

MH

“ *Shirley always had a smile and such a generous heart. From her crafts and her music and her love of God.. she always shared. Loved seeing her at Mass at the care center. She was beautiful inside and out. Pat and family..I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Melanie Hirl - April 13, 2020 at 03:02 PM