



Mrs. Marjorie Lee Willey **Obituary**

AUG 17, 1929 - FEB 17, 2012



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Marjorie Lee Willey, daughter of Fannie (Chase) and Van Bumgarner was born August 17, 1929 in High Point, Iowa and passed away Friday, February 17th at the age of 82 in the presence of her family at Mercy Medical Hospital in Des Moines.

At a young age, Marge was already the hard-working and caring woman that we mourn today. She commonly helped her father Van with chores around the farm, as well as helped take care of a growing family through the trials of the Great Depression.

As a young girl she attended a small rural school where she was commonly the only girl in attendance, this only added to her strong and caring demeanor in a decade that demanded the toughest of individuals. She would later attend classes at Corydon High School where she was not only an achieving student, but also worked part-time at two local drug stores.

Marge would later graduate high school in 1947, two years after the end of the Second World War. It was the same year on October 19th that she married her husband Richard Harlan Willey a young, strapping, military man that had just returned from the war.

The two would spend the rest of their lives together and from their union three beautiful sons were born: Greg, Jeff and Brad. As a mother Marge was just as strong and hard-working as she was in her youth, mostly staying at home to raise her three boys and occasionally working part-time at a local grocery store.

In 1969 she went to work for the local Hy-Vee grocery store in Corydon and she stayed there until 2006. She was awarded consecutively for her devoted service to the store and became a friendly and familiar face to all patrons that shopped there.

Marge was a devoted member of the Alpha Rho Master sorority for over 60 years and was commonly active in many of their affairs. She absolutely loved the color red, and she enjoyed watching cardinals through her windows in the spring and summer months.



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As a cook Marge was almost legendary. She made some of the best cookies you could ever eat and her seasonal ham loaf was famous throughout the family. She also enjoyed going on walks, reading, as well as gardening; however her deepest and most sincere love was the love for her family, especially her 9 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Marge was preceded in death by her parents Fannie and Van Bumgarner, her sister Luella, her brother Olin, sister-in-law Liz Bumgarner, and the love of her life, her husband Richard Willey. She is survived by her best friend and twin brother Merwin and family, as well as her three sons and their families that she cared so much for: Greg and wife Melinda and their family: Joe and Stacy Willey, Brendan and Claire, Christina and Eric Cox, Rylan, Bode, Marlea, and Macy; son Jeff and his family: Jason Willey, Tanner and Grady, Chris Willey, Casara, Madison and Mya, Jenny and T. J. Frost, Jalen and Tristyn, Jesse and Rachel Willey, Haley and Jessa; son Brad and wife Torina and their family: Josh Willey, Emmitt, Stephanie and Scott Williams, Owen, Evan, Ian, and Elin and Colton Willey and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

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Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 11:25 AM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 11:37 AM



Ron And Sally Mans - Forsyth, Mt - Son Of Vera Willey Mans posted:

Please accept our deepest condolences. We have many fond memories of both your parents at the Willey reunions held in the Little Belt mountains in Montana. My folks spoke highly of your parents and know that your mom will be missed very much. We had the opportunity to stop in Corydon to see your folks several years ago and appreciated how they opened their home to us. May God give you strength and courage to face the coming days . God bless you all.

February 21 at 7:00 PM



Kathy Willey Woodward And Carolyn Willey - San Jose, Ca - Niece And Sister-In-Law posted:

Hi Family, Don't know who all this message might reach, but cousin Gene alerted us (Kathy Willey Woodward, Carolyn Willey and family) when Aunt Marj was found. We have been praying--at first for her, but also for the family. We talked briefly to Jeff I think on Friday. Just wanted you to know how very saddened we are. Mom (Carolyn Willey) is with us for a couple of weeks, so will not be able to attend the services, for which she is most grieved. She and Aunt M were so much closer in their later years. These last few days we have had several sweet times of remembering 'the good old days'-- during which times Aunt M was an ever-present part of our lives. I was enough older than the rest of Dick and Kenny Willey's kids that I can remember the wedding of Uncle Dick and Aunt Marj, as well as the birth of the rest of the cousins. Growing up next door to Aunt Marj and Uncle Dick made for a neat childhood--with Grandma and Grandpa Willey next door on the other side, the backyard was quite a compound of space for us kids. Besides the 3-yards-wide worth of garden, there were several play structures as well as TREES to climb and bushes that made great forts. Winter snow, when there was a good fall, piled up against the snowfence that Grandpa Harlan had put in for winters. That made for some great snow fort building! Oh, mustn't forget the fishing! Because our dads were fishermen of great renown around the county, they 'planted' earthworms in the backyard--we had gobs of them...walking outside after a good rain, one could pick up dozens and they made the best bait! Continued on the next submission...

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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Kathy Willey Woodward And Carolyn Willey - San Jose,, Ca - Niece And Sis-In-Law posted:

Christmas is another memory...we always ate at Grandma and Grandpa's on Christmas eve...all the three families. Before all the kids were born, we fit in their kitchen, but once all 6 offspring were here, we would only fit in the living room. Every year, the same thing happened--there'd be a noise and ONLY the men would go investigate. Of course, it would be Santa and he made a stop early, just to leave us a few presents (from G & G, of course) and remind us to go to bed so he could also stop at our homes later that night. By the time we kids were allowed up, there was nary a glimpse of Santa but there were lots of gifts! Summers, one of the fun things that many did was square-dancing--I fell asleep countless nights listening to Uncle Dick practice his calls--he had a great voice and was my first hero besides my dad. He also practiced his trombone in his kitchen window which was just opposite my bedroom, so again--my sleepy-time serenade. Aunt M would often be scurrying around the kitchen, finishing any post-meal tidying up. Oh, speaking of kitchen...her prowess as a cook is well remembered by my mom, Carolyn. We all had (and have!) 'The Ham Loaf' recipe, but Aunt Marjorie's always, always was the BEST. And mashed potatoes--we recall how many her 4 'boys' could eat at a sitting and would marvel that she found time to peel 10 pounds at a time! besides cooking anything else! Aunt Marj was always so tiny and when she was through with them, I was the recipient of her high heels and fancy dresses! I had the best dress-up clothes in the whole county! It's probably how I learned to walk in high heels! When I think of RED, I think of Aunt Marj--it was forever and always her favorite color and the last time I visited her, the first thing she asked was if I had seen her new red couch. (Continued on the next page!)

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 11:37 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mrs. Marjorie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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