



# Myrtle Felkner

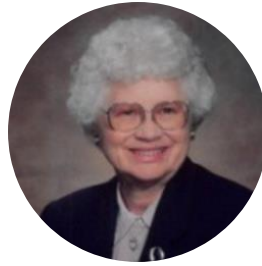
APR 14, 1925 - SEP 25, 2019



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## **Myrtle Felkner**

APR 14, 1925 - SEP 25, 2019

**M**yrrtle Emilene Felkner, age 94 of Centerville died Wednesday, Sept 25 at her home west of Centerville. She was born the daughter of Hans Edward Koefoed, a Danish immigrant, and Florence Christine Frederiksen, a second-generation Danish immigrant on April 14, 1925 near Janesville, IA. She graduated from Janesville High School in 1942 and later the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Iowa. After graduation she worked in Des Moines auditing the Iowa beer taxes and as a legal secretary. During World War II she volunteered as a pen pal to many soldiers, rolled bandages, and danced with soldiers who were training at Camp Dodge. She was united in marriage to Paul Eugene Felkner of Centerville on Aug 19, 1945 in Janesville, IA. Myrtle had careers as an author, farmer, public speaker, and Christian Educator. Myrtle sold her first article to the Associated Press at the age of 12. Throughout her life she wrote hundreds of articles, stories, plays and poems which were published in Kitchen Klatter, Farm Journal, The Des Moines Register, and religious publications. Her passion was writing Christian Education materials. She wrote and sold nine books, as well as creating and writing One Room Sunday School curriculum (including teachers guide, student and parent papers) for the United Methodist Church. It is estimated her curriculum reached over one million children in the United States. Myrtle was integral to the family farm operation while growing up and since 1946 co-managed the family farm west of Centerville with her husband Paul. Myrtle baled hay, raised chickens, helped with livestock production and checked creek gaps. She loved walking and exploring the farm. She was named a Master Farm Homemaker by Wallace's Farmer in 1967. Myrtle became a certified Laboratory teacher in the United Methodist Church, teaching Sunday School teachers from all over the U.S. how to teach. She herself was a Sunday School teacher for 65 years. From 1982-1990 she taught Christian Education for a Course of Study School for Local Pastors at Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Later she



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became chair of the Course of Study School for the United Methodist Church in Iowa, the program that certifies lay pastors in Iowa. From 1972 to 1985 Myrtle was director of Christian Education for the Faith United Methodist Parish in Appanoose County, Iowa. As educator she designed after-school programs, annual Bible Schools and a Day Camp for six small Methodist churches in Appanoose County, as well as FUMC in Centerville. At least a hundred volunteers helped carry out these programs, benefitting 200-300 children weekly. From 1985 to 1995 Myrtle worked as the director of education in small membership churches for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN. She traveled from the family farm near Centerville to every state but Maine in educating pastors and Sunday School teachers about Christian education in churches with membership of less than 200. For her years of creative ministry in Christian Education, Myrtle was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, IA in 1995. Myrtle loved life and lived it to the fullest. She learned to water ski at age 40, snow ski at age 50 and was an avid bird watcher and loved reading history and biography. She often flew with Paul in the open cockpit biplane that he built from scratch. Myrtle was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Paul; her parents; four siblings, Paul Koefoed of Cedar Falls, IA; Winona Koefoed of Calexico, California; Virginia Lageschulte of Waverly, IA; and Ercil McWilliams of Dumont, IA; one great-grandchild, Dominique Ennis of Ames, IA; and 2 nephews. She is survived by three children, Barbara Gardner (Steve), Joan Felkner, and William (Bill) Felkner (Natalie) all of Centerville, IA; four grandchildren, Dianne Ennis (Rick) of Ames, IA; Emily Felkner and Kyle Felkner (Morgan) of Centerville, IA; and Stephanie (Don) Edwards of Kansas City, Kansas. She is survived by 9 great-grandchildren, including Dakota Ennis (Kasie) of Washington state; Chance Ennis of Chicago, Ill; Destany, Zachary and Miles Ennis, of Ames, IA; Leland Felkner of Centerville, IA; Cassady Dean (Bobby) of Ames, IA, Chelsea Martinez (Lupe) of Greenville, TX, Andrew Edwards of Kansas City, KS; and one great-great grandchild, Archer Dean of Ames, IA. Other survivors include nieces and nephews in the United States, and cousins in Copenhagen, on the island of Bornholm, Denmark, and in Norway. The family of Myrtle E. Felkner wants to express special thanks for



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extraordinary compassionate care to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Specialty Care Clinic staff and Infusion Nurses, Community Home Care Services (Kamron, Steve, Melissa), EveryStep Hospice (Anna, Linda, Heather Tiffany), and especially, Dr. David and Vanessa Fraser. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Faith United Methodist Church in Centerville. Interment will immediately follow at Felkner Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 1-7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4, 2019 with the family present from 4-7:00 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Faith United Methodist Church or the Drake Avenue Public Library in Centerville, Iowa and online condolences may be shared at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com) or [facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](https://facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome). To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Myrtle Felkner please visit our Sympathy Store.

Cemetery Details Felkner Cemetery Hwy 2 West  
Centerville, IA 52544 Visitation OCT 4. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CDT) Faith United  
Methodist Church 23851 Hwy 5Centerville, IA 52544 Funeral Service OCT 5. 10:00  
AM (CDT) Faith United Methodist Church 23851 Hwy 5Centerville, IA 52544



# Tribute Wall

**Myrtle Felkner**

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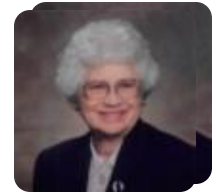


**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 12:28 PM



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



October 13 at 1:05 PM



**Bruce N Hoover** posted:

Barbara, Bill and Joan, this evening we were going through family pictures and of course I have a number of pictures of Barbara. Thinking of your Mom, I ran a search and find that Myrtle had passed. I am indeed saddened to learn of your loss. A few years ago I stopped by the farm and was lucky enough to find her at home. She welcomed me in and we had a long enjoyable visit. This was after your Dad had passed. She even showed me Paul's airplane (J3 like) and recalled some of our flights together. Again, though not timely, please accept my heartfelt condolences for your loss. Hope you are all doing well. Bruce Hoover bnhoover48@gmail.com

July 7 at 7:00 PM



**Rev. Bob Dean** posted:

Working the past three years for Cokesbury has given me an even greater appreciation for the work Myrtle did throughout her life for Christian Education. She was a wonderful woman to work with on the South Central District Committee on Ministry when then I served as a pastor. My prayers are with you, her family, and all who miss her. May the testament of her faith shown throughout her life strengthen and comfort you all. - Bob Dean

October 6 at 7:00 PM



**Arrive In Style** posted:

Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Myrtle Felkner.

October 1 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CB

**Country Basket Blooms** posted:

Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Myrtle Felkner.

September 30 at 7:00 PM

MM

**Mary Morris** posted:

I know where she is now.Mary Morris

September 30 at 7:00 PM

MG

**Mary Green** posted:

Such a great woman! So blessed to have her teaching and leading during my years as a Christian Educator!! Treasure my memories of her. Prayers and sympathy for family and friends. Rev. Mary Green

September 29 at 7:00 PM

KR

**Ken Royar** posted:

Joan and family members, Our hearts are sad at hearing of Myrtle's death. In 1966 I was transferred to the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church and it wasn't long before I began to learn about the work Myrtle was doing for our denomination. She was the model for hundreds if not more Sunday school teachers through her writing and teaching in laboratory schools across the Iowa Conference. Over the years as a director for many of these schools and recruiting faculty Myrtle was always my first choice when it came to selecting staff. Her commitment to teaching others was a testimony to her commitment to helping teachers in Sunday school bring God's love to their students. We will miss her kind words of advice and counsel. Ken Royar

September 27 at 7:00 PM

BH

**Brian Harrington** posted:

Myrtle heaven just gained another Angel. I want you to know your memory is still bright in my mind as well as my brothers. Thank you for your dedication and care you gave and provided our Numa Youth group as children in the 1970-80's. Your truly an Angel from God and I'm thankful he allowed you to touch so many of our lives. I will cherish your books and my memories for as long as I'm here on earth. Give my best to Paul. He sparked my interest in Aviation almost 45 years ago and I've had a wonderful career in Aerospace. Brian & KEVIN Harrington Numa Iowa 1976-1984

September 26 at 7:00 PM



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LJ

**Lisa Jones** posted:

Lisa Jones lit a candle in memory of Myrtle Felkner

September 26 at 7:00 PM

LJ

**Lisa Jones** posted:

Myrtle had a wonderful out look on life. Such a great Lady. Thoughts and Prayers to her Family and Friends.

September 26 at 7:00 PM

SP

**Stephanie Phelps** posted:

To have known Myrtle is to be truly blessed.

September 26 at 7:00 PM

JL

**Jo Ann Laurson** posted:

Jo Ann Laurson lit a candle in memory of Myrtle Felkner

September 25 at 7:00 PM

KC

**Kelly Starchevich Culver** posted:

Kelly Starchevich Culver lit a candle in memory of Myrtle Felkner

September 25 at 7:00 PM

KC

**Kelly Starchevich Culver** posted:

What can I say about Grandma Myrtle, she was the kindest, nicest lady you would ever meet. Always there for you. Thoughts and prayers for the family. We now have another angel to watch over us!

September 25 at 7:00 PM



## Media

**Myrtle Felkner**

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Thomas Funeral Home shared 2 photos to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 1:05 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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