



# Thelma Thamke

FEB 14, 1915 - OCT 29, 2018



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## **Thelma Thamke**

FEB 14, 1915 - OCT 29, 2018

**T**helma E. (Efferding) Thamke passed away October 29, 2018, at the age of 103 years, 8 months and 15 days. She was born in a farm home near Maquoketa, Iowa on February 14, 1915, the daughter of Louis Charles and Florence Regina Blunt Efferding. She was the last surviving member of her and her husband's immediate families. She was both a city and farm girl, but her love was for the country. She spent her four high school years with her grandparents in town to enable her to graduate from Maquoketa High School in 1934. She met her husband, Leroy Thamke at the home of Alma and Mildred Heidi where they were both employed as hired help. They were happily married for 59 years and raised six children. During her youth, she shared many happy times with her brothers, Bob and Harlan Efferding. After graduating from high school she hired out in many different roles in neighbors' households. She was never an idle person and did whatever job she was capable of doing. Before the birth of their first child, they were at different times a maid, cook, butler and chauffeur for the Faithorn family in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Most of her married life, Thelma, was a farm wife and mother. Five of their children were born in Wisconsin where they rented and moved from various farms. Because of their faith and the desire for the family to be closer to their church, they sold the farm they had bought and moved from Wisconsin to Centerville, Iowa, on January 15, 1951. Thelma was a multi-gifted woman. Even with the long hours of caring for her family, she was an artist, a seamstress, a horticulturist, a Sunday school teacher, a story teller, a florist, a biographer, and so much more. Thelma had a great faith in God. As a young woman, she was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints church (now known as the Community of Christ). She lived the life of a faithful and generous servant by sharing whatever God provided to bless others; her home always a place of welcome and hospitality. She loved everyone equally, step children, in-laws, close friends, all considered part of the



## Obituary

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family. Friendships were important to her and lasted throughout their life times. In her last years, she projected her love to all those who cared for her with her happy disposition and appreciation for all they did for her. Thelma was preceded in death by the loss of her dear husband, Leroy; her first born daughter, Evelyn and Evelyn's husband Dan and her son, Arlen, one of the twins. Surviving members of her family are: Darlene (Dee) and her husband Bruce Glauberg of Des Moines, Iowa; Leon and wife Martha Thamke of Centerville, Iowa; Annette and husband Jim Trinkle of Bussey, Iowa; Edward and his wife Joanna Thamke of Helena, Montana; daughter-in-law, Florine Murray of Story City, Iowa; 28 grandchildren and their spouses and 22 great grandchildren. Services will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. at the Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville, Iowa with Elder Jim Trinkle officiating. Burial will follow in the Oakland Cemetery in Centerville, Iowa. Memorial contributions may be given to the Golden Age Care Center Courtyard Garden Fund and may be left at or mailed to the Thomas Funeral Home, 501 North 18th Street, Centerville, IA 52544. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Thelma Thamke please visit our Sympathy Store. Cemetery Details Oakland Cemetery E. State St. & N. 21st St.

Centerville, IA 52544 Visitation NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CDT) Thomas Funeral Home - Centerville 501 North 18th StreetCenterville, IA 52544[[emailprotected](#)]  
Funeral Service NOV 3. 11:00 AM (CDT) Thomas Funeral Home-Centerville 501 North 18th StreetCenterville, IA 52544<http://www.thomasfh.com>



# Tribute Wall

**Theelma Thamke**  
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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 1:17 PM



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



October 13 at 1:18 PM



**Margery Davison** posted:

Mrs Thamke was a great lady and she is going to be missed. Our condolences to her family. She was a wonderful neighbor. From the Ewing Family Matthew, Margery and Marilyn

November 2 at 7:00 PM



**Patricia Timmens** posted:

I met Theelma when my mother, Frances Raskie Sniegowski, was a resident of Golden Age. Theelma was a ray of sunshine every single day. I am so very sorry for your loss. She was an amazing human being and I am so grateful I got to meet her.

November 1 at 7:00 PM



**Kris Koestner** posted:

Leon I will always remember how great a cook and baker she was...we used to trade sandwiches because hers were on homemade bread and my was on store bought bread...a treat for both of us to trade...she did it all...God bless her...you had the best parents....they were truly the salt of the earth

October 31 at 7:00 PM



**Shirley Scritchfield** posted:

SHIRLEY SCRITCHFIELD lit a candle in memory of Theelma Thamke

October 31 at 7:00 PM



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SB

**Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet** posted:

Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thelma Thamke.

October 31 at 7:00 PM

NT

**Nellie Thomas** posted:

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in memory of Thelma Thamke

October 31 at 7:00 PM

JT

**James E. Teater** posted:

To Leon Thamke and Thamke family. I am sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. James E. Teater

October 31 at 7:00 PM

DP

**Doug And Nancy Price** posted:

SO VERY GRACIOUS TO ALL OF THE TEENAGERS, ESPECIALLY TO THE PRICE FAMILIES, ED WAS SO SPECIAL TO US. PEACE BE WITH YOU. DOUG AND NANCY PRICE

October 31 at 7:00 PM

JP

**Joe & Jeanie Pratte** posted:

Joe & Jeanie Pratte lit a candle in memory of Thelma Thamke

October 30 at 7:00 PM

VS

**Vince & Linda Sullivan** posted:

Our neighbor when we moved here many years ago. A lovely lady! Our thoughts and prayers are with her family! Vince & Linda Sullivan

October 30 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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DB

**Diana Brown** posted:

Thelma was the strongest, happiest, most loving person! I count myself lucky for having known her. My heartfelt sympathy for all the family. Diana Brown

October 30 at 7:00 PM

DH

**Dalene Hamilton** posted:

She was a lady of style and grace to all that was able to know her. We loved her here at Golden Age and she was part of our family. We thank the family for allowing us to get to know her and be able to share part of her life with us. Rest in peace our friend! Golden Age Family

October 30 at 7:00 PM

DL

**Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson** posted:

Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson lit a candle in memory of Thelma Thamke

October 29 at 7:00 PM

MW

**Michele & Jim Walser** posted:

Gram will be missed! At 103 years old, she touched a lot of folks' life! We love her and know she's shining brightly in Heaven! star

October 29 at 7:00 PM



## Media

**Thelma Thamke**

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

October 13 at 1:18 PM





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

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



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