



Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of day

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch

If my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Mary D. Waite*

February 11, 1929 – September 20, 2023



**Mary Dean Braatz Waite, 94**, of Garner, passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the Good Samaritan Society in Forest City.

Mary was born on February 11, 1929, to Werner Robert Braatz and Elizabeth Louise (Sprong) Braatz in Whittemore (Kossuth County), Iowa. Her father was a meat market clerk and the family moved frequently in northern Iowa. Mary graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1947. On October 29, 1949, she married Robert Earl Waite in Marshalltown. They lived in Marshalltown, Garner, Goodell, and Britt. Mary lived at the Valley View Nursing Home in Greene, Iowa, the last few years of her life. Mary enjoyed family get-togethers, cooking, reading, puzzles, and coloring. She had a lifelong love of birds. Mary and Bob went to Pharr, TX, for over 15 years and made many friends there.

She was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner where she taught catechism. Mary also was a member of the Rosary Society and the ACCW. She was a Girl Scout leader and was fondly known as the Avon lady.

Those left to remember and cherish her memory are her children, Allan (Audrey) Waite of Moorehead, MN, Debra Haugen of Garner, Diane (Doug) Ingersoll of Clover, SC, and Amy Waite (David Zavortink) of Camas, WA; her sisters, Betty Christerson of Marshalltown, IA, Sharon Meggison and her husband Jim of Waterloo, IA; nine grandchildren, Deana Lickteig, Kayla (Curtis) Benttine, Lincoln Waite, Adam (Pamela) Roberts, Brent (Jennifer) Roberts, Craig Roberts, Katie Ingersoll (Julie Tozer), Ivan Zavortink (Katie Veys) and Kira Zavortink (Dylan Mitchell); step-granddaughter, Deanna Haugen; twenty-one great-grandchildren, Lillith (Jeremy) Harbaugh, Olivia Lickteig, Elizabeth (Ian) Kulow, Jillian Butner, Krysta Waite, Kaitlyn Waite, Alan Benttine, Wesley Waite, William Waite, Wren Waite, Cody (Thea) Roberts, Kourtney Roberts, Brandon Roberts, Paige Roberts, Clayton Roberts, Connor Roberts, Madeline Roberts, Isabella Roberts, Louise Tozer, Theodore Zavortink, Ryla Mitchell; step-grandchildren, Jonathon Burress and Samantha Haugen; nine great-great-grandchildren, Melodie and Ballard Harbaugh, Logan Samson, Freya Scharlau, Alistair Roalfs, Celeste DeRaad, Cameron Zirbel, Seeley Kulow, Arthur Kulow; and many, many nieces and nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Robert (Bob); her parents; two sons, David and Andrew; three children in infancy, Donald, Abbie, and Annie; her brothers, Charles and Louis (Sr.) Braatz, her sister, Elizabeth Klein; brothers-in-law, Leroy Klein, William Christerson; son-in-law, John Haugen; and step-granddaughter, Julie Haugen.

*In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to one of your favorite charities or the National Audubon Society ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)), Reading is Fundamental ([www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)), or the Parkinson's Foundation ([www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org)) in Mary's name.*

## Celebrating the Life of

# Mary D. Waite

February 11, 1929 – September 20, 2023

### FUNERAL MASS

St. Boniface Catholic Church – Garner, Iowa  
10:30 a.m., Saturday, September 30, 2023

### CELEBRANT

Rev. Fr. Andrew Marr

### LECTOR

Debra Haugen

### MUSIC

Mary Kopacek, Organist  
Mary Chambers, Cantor  
St. Boniface Choir

### USHER

Francis Oborny

### CASKET BEARERS

Deana Lickteig	Adam Roberts
Brent Roberts	Kayla Benttine
Craig Roberts	Lincoln Waite
Katie Ingersoll	Ivan Zavortink
Kira Zavortink	

### BURIAL

St. Boniface Cemetery – Garner, Iowa

*All are invited to join the family for a luncheon in the church basement immediately following the committal service.*

*Cafaldo*  
FUNERAL HOMES