

Family of Ardis Eilts

Belinda Harrison

Molly (Dan) Kueffer
Abigail, Baylen, Christian, and Danny
Rachel (Garrick) Baxter
Zander, Emmelia, Boston, and Knox
Greta Rogers
Bella and Alexander
Lucas Harrison

Pat (Ralph) Thomason

Sarah (Jordan) Alborn
August and Margaret

Glenda (James) Ver Hoeven

Carol (Rick) Salberg

Natalia (Chad) Paulsen
Beckett and Liam
Marissa (Jeff Sebern) Salberg
Kaden and Mateo
Emily Salberg

Paul (Tami) Eilts

Anna (Leif) Gibler
Elizabeth (Nate) Anderson
Leo, Coen, and Peyton
William Eilts
Ellis Eilts

Mary (Patrick) Hendricks

Jessie (Matt) Scott
Sean, Meagan, and Claire
Chris (Kristi) Hendricks
Amara, Axl, and Aysa
Patrice Dooley
Freya and River

"Count your blessings" Ardis

*Celebrating The Life Of
Ardis Ornette Eilts*



September 15, 1933

July 23, 2023

Ardis was born on September 15, 1933, to Harry and Nellie (Erickson) Smith. She was descended from a long line of strong-minded women and kind-hearted men. Ardis grew up during the Great Depression and never failed to use this as an excuse for her vast collection of empty butter tubs and Cool Whip containers. She attended Ireton schools and after graduating from high school married Bill Dean Eilts on February 23, 1951. Overnight she became a farm wife and soon after a mother. Together they raised six children and experienced the tragic loss of an infant son to SIDS. Bill passed away in 1987 at the young age of 53. This is when we first saw our mother's strength as she lovingly tended to him during those many years fighting pancreatic cancer.

After her husband's passing, she channeled her grief into doing what she'd always enjoyed, writing. For many years she was co-owner and editor of the local newspaper *The Ireton Examiner* where she also wrote a weekly column entitled "Generally Speaking". This title came from the phrase under her senior photo in the yearbook "Generally speaking she is generally speaking". Ardis was an enthusiastic conversationalist. She had the privilege to attend a session of the prestigious Iowa Summer Writers Workshop. Ardis was a long-time member of the Historical Society, a genealogy buff and always available to assist visitors in search of their Iowa roots. She had a deep love of people and their stories. She was a proud Falcon and faithful supporter of all things West Sioux. Ardis was a long-time member of The American Legion Auxiliary. Patriotic to the bone, her favorite colors were red, white, and blue. She was the first recipient of the Ireton Citizen of The Year award. Ardis was a true Norwegian who could live on buttered lefse and kringla. The more butter the better! Her small kitchen table displayed every jelly and jam you could imagine. She was known for the caramel rolls she baked and delivered to so many friends and neighbors. She always had the best neighbors. Her soul was soothed first in the Presbyterian church and later as a Lutheran at St. Paul's. Ardis taught Catechism and was also a 4-H leader. She had many joyful adventures with the Red Hatters and traveled to numerous places both here and overseas. She especially looked forward to meeting with her Birthday Club. Then there was the quilting. So much patience and creativity and enjoyment. Her fabric stash was epic. She spread her love stitch by stitch eventually sewing close to 100 quilts. Ardis would especially want to thank all the skilled and loving staff at Oakhill Assisted Living who along with the other residents were her family too. She passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at the age of 89. She was the heart and soul of our family.

Left to carry on her legacy are her children, Belinda Harrison, Pat (Ralph) Thomason, Glenda (James) Ver Hoeven, Carol (Rick) Salberg, Paul (Tami) Eilts, and Mary (Patrick) Hendricks; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; cousin, Esther Schlueter who felt more like a sister to her; and sister-in-law, Marlene Eilts along with many nieces, nephews, and loved ones.

Ardis was predeceased by husband Bill; parents, Harry and Nellie Smith, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lawrence and Emma Eilts; sisters, Phyllis Presler and Marjorie Smith; infant son, Lawrence; infant granddaughter, Elise Eilts; brothers-in-law, Vernon Eilts, Alden Presler, and Earlo Smith; sons-in-law, Rob Harrison and Chuck Marienau; and grandson-in-law, Brandon Rogers.

Thank you, Mom, for being such an amazing, smart, generous, and loving role model. We are broken-hearted, but ever grateful.

In Loving Memory Of
Ardis Ornette Eilts

September 15, 1933 ✝ July 23, 2023

MEMORIAL SERVICE

1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 27, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ireton, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Rev. Michael Boothby

ORGANIST

Ruth Alexander

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Bringing In The Sheaves"

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

"Blessed Assurance"

INURNMENT

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Ireton, Iowa

*Please join Ardis' family for refreshments, fellowship,
and a time of sharing memories at the Ireton Community Center
following the committal service.*