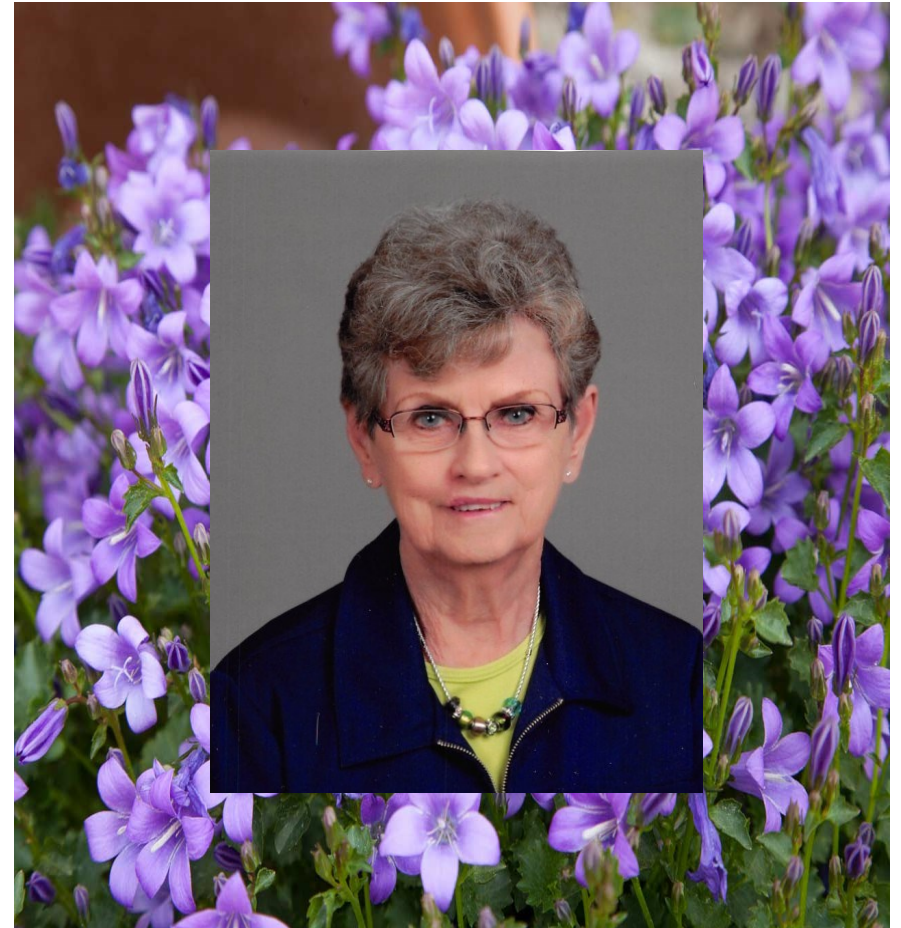


Lovingly Remembered

*Special people
never leave us
Even after
they are gone...
They live in our
hearts forever.
Nothing can ever
break that bond.*



*Ilene Ann Bernhardt
August 14, 1932 ~ July 12, 2019*

Ilene Ann Bernhardt, 86, of Dike, passed away on Friday, July 12, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, following a brief illness. Visitation for Ilene will be held on Tuesday, July 16th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Abels Funeral & Cremation Service-Dike Chapel, 680 Main St., Dike, Iowa. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, July 17th at 10:30 AM at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in rural Reinbeck with Father David Kucera officiating. Immediately following Mass, the burial will be held at the Elmwood Cemetery in Dike. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Ilene was born on August 14, 1932, in Decorah, Iowa, the daughter of Alfred & Inez (Strom) Halvorson. She spent her childhood in Decorah with her family where she attended school and graduated high school. On September 19, 1953, Ilene was united in marriage to James "Jim" Bernhardt in Decorah. The couple were blessed with 4 children and raised their growing family in the communities of Decorah, Grinnell, Carroll, Harlan, Ida Grove, and in 1961, they settled into their home in Dike.

For many years, Ilene stayed home and raised her children and took care of the family home but in 1971, Ilene began her bank teller career at Iowa Savings Bank in Dike, retiring in 1996. After her retirement, Ilene volunteered at the Dike school cafeteria for many years.

Outside of work and home, Ilene was a faithful member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church, where she belonged to the Women's Circle. Ilene had a servant's heart! She was always willing to do anything, for anybody, at any time. She never spoke a bad word about anybody and saw the good in everything. Ilene enjoyed baking, her involvement with her church, watching the Lawrence Welk Show and Wheel of Fortune, dinners with family and friends, and of course, anything purple! She was also a Cubs fan, becoming one only by marriage, her family jokes! The one thing that brought the most joy to Ilene was her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be terribly missed by her many family and special friends she leaves behind.

Ilene is survived by her children Jan (Bill) Duffy of Cedar Rapids, Joyce (Larry) Willms of Dike, Steve (Rhonda) Bernhardt of Shellsburg and Mary Bernhardt of Waterloo; 4 grandchildren Kevin (Laura) Willms, Jenny (Drew) Pederson, Brett Bernhardt and Noah (Gina) Shonka; great-grandchildren Matthew, Katherine and Caroline Willms and Gage Shonka; twin sister Ila (Ken) Wangsness of Allison; step-sister Lorna Neil of Waterloo; brothers-in-law Rich Bernhardt of Lititz, PA and Don (Norma) Bernhardt of O'Fallon, MO and many nieces and nephews. She rejoins in Heaven her parents; husband Jim; brother Hans Halvorson.

In Loving Memory
Ilene Ann Bernhardt
August 14, 1932 ~ July 12, 2019

Mass of Christian Burial
Wednesday, July 17, 2019-10:30 AM
St. Gabriel Catholic Church

Reinbeck, Iowa

Officiating

Father David Kucera

Pianist

Lyndsie Pedersen

Cantors

Jerry Zeiner

Kevin Paar

Lector

Gary Watts

Eucharistic Ministers

Ann Grundmeier

Carol Grundmeier

Gift Bearers

Laura Willms

Jenny Pederson

Altar Server

Noah Sealman

Congregational Hymns

"Be Not Afraid"- Opening Hymn

"Here I Am Lord"- Offertory Hymn

"23rd Psalm"- Responsorial Hymn

"God Be With You Till' We Meet Again"- Communal Hymn

(Kevin Paar)

"Lead Me Lord"-Closing Hymn

Casket Bearers

Kevin Willms

Rick Wangsness

Rich Jorgensen

Mark Woodley

Brett Bernhardt

Drew Pederson

Honorary Casket Bearers

Rod Wangsness

Ken Bernhardt

Kevin Bernhardt

Gary Wangsness

Ushers

Dean Larson

Bill Rogers

Interment

Elmwood Cemetery

Dike, Iowa

Please join Ilene's family for lunch in the church Fellowship Hall following the committal service at the cemetery.