



Delaine Bell Olson

February 10, 1927 - February 21, 2022

Delaine Bell Olson (nee KINDWALL) went to be with the Lord February 21st, 2022, in Spirit Lake at the age of 95. “Dee”, as she was known by her friends, was born February 10, 1927, in Alta, Buena Vista County, Iowa at the Alta Hospital. She grew up with her sister Barbara amidst many early (and several related) farming families from Buena Vista County on the family homestead just a few miles west and a little north of Alta. The Kindwall family farm, now a Century Farm, has been in the family since 1880. She was the daughter of Elmer Chester KINDWALL and Clara Minnie BELL and was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Robert Vernon “Bob” OLSON, several brother and sisters-in-law, and her sister Barbara Ruth Sunner Hull. Delaine graduated from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls (now the University of Northern Iowa) in 1948 and worked as a Home Economics teacher for over half her professional career in a variety of school districts, including Orange City, Milford, Sulphur Springs, Peterson, and Terrill. But Milford was that special place where she met the love of her life, Bob, in front of the Milford Theatre. Later, she transitioned to a role as Adult Education Specialist, working in both Estherville and the Iowa Great Lakes area with Iowa Lakes Community College. She particularly loved working with the Elder Hostel group for many years. She retired from it all in the early 1990’s after almost 40 years of public service in Iowa.

But formal education wasn’t her only trade. She and husband Bob ran the day-to-day operation of the Cottonwood Cottages Resort on the southeast

shore of Big Spirit Lake from 1960 into the mid 1980's. Running the cottages was a full family adventure and a guaranteed recipe for learning all about work for her three daughters, the informal education of life itself, and Delaine and Bob were both teachers here too. There were always sheets and towels to wash, floors to mop, rooms to clean, lawns to mow, supplies to replenish, visitors to register and emerging family friendships to be fostered. Grandma Dee's signature brownies (with a cold glass of milk) were a requirement on every visit by the grandkids. And if one big batch wasn't enough to satisfy the demand she would just "whip up" another. Inner tubes in the lake were also standard equipment for everyone willing to get into the lake, but only after waiting an hour after lunch. Grandma Dee would also partake with the rest of the family, always trying to keep her hair from getting too wet, particularly since she was NOT a good swimmer herself. And many a family member learned about collecting "beach glass" and "seashells" with Grandma Dee. She was a member of several local groups, many of which she became more active in during retirement. She participated in the Okoboji Women's Club; AAUW; Questers; Lakes Regional Hospital Auxiliary; United Methodist Women; Retired Teachers Association; Delta Kappa Gamma; Friendship Club; and Ladies of the Old School and occasionally hosted the local "Book Club" but more often she simply attended that event which was put on by other friends within the Lakes region. We always wondered about what books she was really reading. She also participated in the local "MUGS" group (Microcomputer Users Group) to help keep up with her grandkids as the use of electronic gadgets came into our world. She had her own computer and maintained her own FACEBOOK page long before it was all the rage. Her "Home Economics" background made her an "Early Adopter" in the kitchen, even to the point where she acquired one of the earliest microwave ovens in the area, in spite of her husband Bob's doubts. But he too was soon offering the family personal instruction on how to use this new device to warm their coffee. Jell-O was certainly known to be her favorite dessert. Red, green, and orange were often the choices, but not usually at the same time. And, most

varieties, regardless of color or flavor, needed fruit of one type or another inserted. "Meat and potatoes" were standard supper cuisine. During her lifetime she and Bob made at least 35 trips around the United States including travel to Sweden in 1975 to visit family there with Bob's father (who was born in Sweden) and later adventured in a 32 ft 5th wheel travel trailer from Iowa to Alaska and back on a trip of a life-time. Included were trips to California, Hawaii, Florida, Texas, and Arizona for portions of the winter and to Colorado and southern Iowa to frequently visit kids and grandkids. She loved her family with all her heart and always made it a special point to tell everyone how important family was to her. We never doubted her sincerity. She will be greatly missed. She is survived by her daughters Jolene (Shawn) Fechter, Marsha (John) Smeltzer, and Sandra Olson, six grandchildren, Lt. Col. Matthew Fechter (LeAnn), Sara Clark (KeKoa), David Smeltzer, Tim Fechter (Kelsie), Brent Fechter (Kari), Katie O'Day (Kyle), eight great grandchildren, Eric and Liam Fechter, Keilana and Kanae Clark, Kaden and Harper Fechter, Gunnar, and Garrett O'Day and many nieces and nephews and brother-in-law Paul Olson. The funeral will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, February 25, 2022, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will start at 10:00 am. Interment will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Alta. There will be a short grave-side service at 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

593 IA-7
Alta, IA 51002

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1812 Gary Ave
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Service

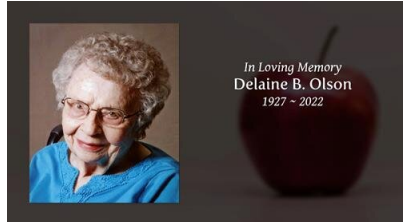
FEB **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church
1812 Gary Ave
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Robinson Funeral Home - February 24, 2022 at 11:59 AM

RJ

My parents, Harold and Madeleine Dexter, enjoyed your mom and dad so much! I also have many happy memories of shared time with all of you. My prayers are all with your family! Roberta (Dexter) Johnson. She will be greatly missed by all of you. She contributed so much in Spirit Lake community

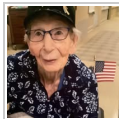
Roberta (Dexter) Jihkson - February 24, 2022 at 04:41 PM



“ *Mary Ellen Inbody lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Mary Ellen Inbody - March 13, 2022 at 09:10 PM



My sympathy to the family! ❤️

Mary Ellen Inbody - March 13, 2022 at 09:12 PM

WY

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. May you find peace at this time.

William Yager

William Yager - February 28, 2022 at 12:59 PM

K(

“ Sorry to hear of your mothers passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you.



Karen Sampson (Eckerman) - February 28, 2022 at 11:24 AM

MN

“ Mark Neustrom lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson



Mark Neustrom - February 27, 2022 at 04:20 PM

MN

“ My deepest condolences to Marsha and family. You are in my prayers.

Mark Neustrom
SLHS Class of 1975

Mark Neustrom - February 27, 2022 at 04:20 PM

DG

“ I just saw this on-line. I am so sorry to hear of Dee's passing. I worked with Dee for 14 years when I worked in Adult Ed at ILCC. I have many great memories of times we had together. Dee always had a positive outlook on things and was a great positive influence. My condolences to all in Dee and Bob's Family! Dale Guge

Dale Guge - February 26, 2022 at 11:34 AM

BA

“ So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. It was so fun to watch the 4th of July fireworks on Big Spirit from her yard. Thoughts and prayers for you all.

Beverly (Butcher) Atwell - February 25, 2022 at 08:50 AM

FO

“ Floyd Ogle lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson



Floyd Ogle - February 25, 2022 at 08:00 AM

DB

“ My sympathy to your family.

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - February 24, 2022 at 11:15 PM

KE

“ Dear Olson Family ~

I was so saddened to hear of the loss of your Mother. She was a compassionate, lovely, and a wonderful lady. Many summer days I would see her when I came to visit Jolene at the cottages.

*I said a prayer for you today, although you didn't hear.
I asked God to help you with your grief and to lessen your fear.
May each day your grief become more bearable, and give you more peace of mind.
You have lost a very special person who was to everyone so kind.*

by Konnie Sue (Klein) Egertson

Konnie Sue (Klein Egertson - February 24, 2022 at 07:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Delaine Bell Olson.*



February 24, 2022 at 03:49 PM

AM

“ *Jolene and families, We were so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. Hugs and prayers to each of you.*

Reba and Alan



Alan and Reba Munson - February 24, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Delaine Bell Olson.*



February 24, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ *What a beautiful tribute of a life well lived! Thoughts and prayers are with you Jolene, Marsha, Sandy, and your families.
Rick and Marcia Morrison*

Marcia Morrison - February 24, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *Bruce Klenken lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Bruce Klenken - February 24, 2022 at 09:04 AM



“ *What a precious soul! Our hugs and sympathies go out to you! May the memories of family times overflow.*



Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen - February 24, 2022 at 05:17 AM

RT

“ *Ray And Diane Tucker lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Ray and Diane Tucker - February 23, 2022 at 10:32 PM

W(

“ *Williams & Company (Estherville) purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Delaine Bell Olson.*



Williams & Company (Estherville) - February 23, 2022 at 10:07 PM

KM

“ *Jolene,
So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. May you find comfort in Jesus.*

Kathy McNeill - February 23, 2022 at 09:38 PM

SS

“ *To my favorite aunt, Aunt Dee. Love you and may God Bless*

Scott Sunner - February 23, 2022 at 04:27 PM

SC

“ *My sympathies to the family of Delaine Olson. She will be missed. I remember her coming to activities and enjoying bingo the best. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sue Crosgrove - February 23, 2022 at 03:51 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of *Delaine Bell Olson*.



February 23, 2022 at 03:18 PM



“ *Karen and Greg Smith* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of *Delaine Bell Olson*.



Karen and Greg Smith - February 23, 2022 at 01:08 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of *Delaine Bell Olson*.



February 23, 2022 at 10:25 AM



“ *Tranquil Seas* was purchased for the family of *Delaine Bell Olson*.



February 23, 2022 at 09:48 AM

NR

“ *Nancy Reiman sent a virtual gift in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Nancy Reiman - February 23, 2022 at 09:46 AM

NR

My condolences to the family during this difficult time.

Nancy Reiman - February 23, 2022 at 09:47 AM

DO

“ *So sorry to hear of Dee's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire extended Olson family. I never stopped by the Olson's without an invite to put my feet under the dinning room table. Bob and Dee always made everyone feel like family. Rest in Peace Dee.*

Dennis Osborne - February 23, 2022 at 09:29 AM

VU

“ *Extending sympathy to the Olson Family and to our classmate Shawn and his wife Jolene Fecther. On behalf of the SLHS Class of 1968.*

Vern Underwood - February 23, 2022 at 09:16 AM

MA

“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Know that you are all in our prayers.*
Terry and Mary Heidebrink

Mary - February 23, 2022 at 09:00 AM

LH

“ *Laura Hanna lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Laura Hanna - February 23, 2022 at 08:42 AM

DB

“ *My sympathy to your family.*

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - February 22, 2022 at 09:35 PM

LJ

“ *Larry And MaryAnn Jansen lit a candle in memory of Delaine Bell Olson*



Larry and MaryAnn Jansen - February 22, 2022 at 08:24 PM

LJ

Dee and Bob were wonderful neighbors for nearly 50 years. We always admired their work ethic and knowledge of lake living. Dee was an excellent baker so we had many varieties of cookies and brownies from her oven. We had gardens next to each other but their garden always looked better!!

Larry and MaryAnn Jansen - February 22, 2022 at 08:32 PM