



Isabel J. Leighton

April 30, 1925 - September 25, 2015

Isabel Julia Leighton, age 90, of Okoboji, passed away Friday, September 25, 2015 at the Hawkeye Nursing Center in Milford, Iowa. She was born April 30, 1925, on a farm in Galva, Iowa, to Roy and Genevieve (Crotty) Murray.

Isabel graduated from Storm Lake High School in 1943. After completing her first year of college at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana, Isabel transferred and obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1947.

Isabel was united in marriage to Lew Leighton in 1950 in Fort Dodge, where they lived for a couple years before Lew's career with United States Gypsum took the family to Staten Island New York area for two years, and thereafter to the Chicago area for seven years before returning to Fort Dodge in 1965. Upon returning to Fort Dodge, Isabel worked as an interior decorator for the Collins-Beier paint store until 1972 when she and Lew opened and operated Isabel's Interiors decorating business on Central Avenue until retiring to Okoboji, Iowa in 1988. She also wrote a column for the Fort Dodge Messenger called "Izz Says," and regularly made appearances on the local Fort Dodge radio and TV stations to discuss and provide decorating hints and advice.

Isabel and her two sisters developed roots in the Okoboji area starting in 1950

when her parents bought a lake cottage on Pocahontas Point on West Lake Okoboji. For almost four decades, the cottage was a treasured vacation and gathering spot for their three families. Isabel always remained engaged in her church and communities in Western Springs, Illinois, Fort Dodge and the Okoboji area. She was a regular volunteer for the Pearson Lakes Art Center, and greatly enjoyed the Okoboji Yacht Club, playing bridge, joining gatherings of the "Swingers," and entertaining the close-knit group of friends she and Lew maintained throughout their 58 years of marriage. Starting in 1993, Isabel and Lew developed great friends and support from the outstanding community they helped create at the Chalstrom Beach Plantation condominiums on East Okoboji.

Isabel is survived by her two sons, Michael Leighton of Bloomington, Minnesota, and Richard (Elizabeth) Leighton, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota and five grandchildren, Benjamin, Olivia, Matthew, Peter, and Meaghan. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lew, and her two sisters, Jean (Duke) Schatz from Omaha and Barbara (Don) Henningsen from Atlantic.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, October 2, 2015, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Milford, Iowa. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception with food and refreshments will follow at the church refectory, after which the family will travel for a graveside burial service to be held at the Corpus Christi Cemetery in Fort Dodge at 3:00pm that same afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Pearson Lakes Art Center in Okoboji.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *Isabelle (and Lew) were considered the "Old Guard" in the Okoboji community---which is a GOOD thing.
Isabelle was a delightful human being.
I knew her mostly through the Okoboji Yacht Club. I will remember her lovely smile, her positive attitude and the many conversations I had with her over the years. I consider it an honor to have known her. She will be missed. I send heartfelt Sympathy and Blessings to her loved ones. Most Sincerely, Delores Maser*

Delores Maser [Mrs. AI] - October 06, 2015 at 09:39 PM

MM

“ *We only knew Isabelle and Lew a short time but have fond memories of them the few years we lived at Charlstrom Beach. We were in the same building and they were great neighbors. Always enjoyed Isabelle's beautiful smile and style!! Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Fred and Margaret McKim.*

Margaret McKim - October 04, 2015 at 05:45 PM

SL

“ *Hello....I want to express my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one and share a hope promised in the Bible.
"The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life." (John 5:28, 29)
With the loss of your loved one I hope you can make a little time to study the Bible for yourself.
I hope that seeing the promise for yourself, and making this resurrection hope your very own, can give you some genuine comfort during this difficult time.
Thank you for reading my message.*

S. Lee - September 30, 2015 at 11:09 PM

SH

“ Isabel was my neighbor at Chalstrom Beach Plantation for 19 years. Isabel was always going somewhere and enjoyed life at the Lake. She always had a smile and looked forward to the good times life could provide.

Steve Holcomb - September 30, 2015 at 09:58 AM

SS

“ Isabel was one of my favorite volunteers at the Pearson Lakes Art Center when I was the Executive Director there (not that I had favorites :). She was so much fun-energetic and always smiling. It was a treat to see her and Lew at all the art openings and many Yacht Club activities. I truly enjoyed knowing Isabel and learning from her and spending time with her. She will be missed by all who had the honor to know her.

Sue Spalding - September 30, 2015 at 09:22 AM

AF

“ I was lucky enough to have spent many hours with Isabel while she was volunteering at the Art Center. She always had a smile on her face and was willing to help with anything. We had many great conversations and laughs. Rest in peace, friend.

Alesia Ferguson - September 28, 2015 at 11:42 PM

TS

“ Isabelle was one of my favorite customers in Okoboji, Always a smile and a good word! Rest in peace dear friend! Sending prayers and sympathy to all of her family.

Tim Smith - September 26, 2015 at 12:26 AM