



Iva Mae Gruver

July 8, 1925 - March 10, 2021

Iva Mae (Ivie or Miss Ivie) Gruver of Spirit Lake, formerly of Cherokee and Okoboji passed away on March 10, 2021, at Community Memorial Health Center in Hartley. There will be a private family graveside service in the Rudd Evergreen Cemetery in Rudd, IA.

Iva was born July 8, 1925 to Lewis and Bertha (Handt) Blunt at Rudd, IA where she grew up and graduated from the Rudd Consolidated High School in May of 1943. She worked at the Rudd Café, Rockford and Hemp Plant and Office at Oliver Cooperation, Charles City.

On December 1, 1944, she married Norman Helmers. One daughter, Judith Ann was born to this union. The marriage ended in divorce. On February 4, 1956 she married Cecil Gruver. Cecil passed away February 1985. They both worked at Cherokee Mental Health for 35 years.

Iva started Iva's Café in Rudd in 1947 and sold it in 1952. She then moved to Cherokee where she worked as a Mental Health Worker Supervisor of the children's adolescent unit for 35 years retiring in April of 1988.

After retirement, she moved to her home at the Smith's Mobile Court in April of 1988 where they had spent days off and vacationed. They loved to go fishing in the lakes area. She lived there till March of 2006 when she moved to the Sunrise Senior Housing in Spirit Lake.

She volunteered at the Lakes Regional Hospital where she had over 12,000 volunteer hours. During this time, she was President of the Auxiliary, Auxiliary Advisor to the Hospital Board of Trustees, member, and volunteer Senior Action Committee. She had also been an Advocate on the Northwest Iowa Ageing in Spencer, Northwest Iowa, and Minnesota.

She was a member of the Calvary United Methodist Church. She was always willing to cover where she could and always found time, even if she had to change her plans to help anyone out. She was continually active and spent time at the Athletic Club almost every day. She loved to golf, play cards, bingo, trying her luck at casinos. She was also on the board of the Golden Adventure and had proudly traveled to every state. She was a Cubs fan as well as the Iowa Hawkeyes. Iva loved to laugh and talk; she never knew a stranger. She had friends all over the country. She always thought positive and would always say “there is always a little good in everyone”. She was very proud of her daughter and family and treasured the vacations with her family throughout the years in their 5th wheel.

She is survived by her daughter Judith Ann (Larry) Oeltjenbruns of Hollister, MO; grandson Chris (Michelle) Oeltjenbruns and children Parker, Devin and Jayden; granddaughter Clarinda (Tony) and children Kaleb, and Kenya Brown; sister Betty Neel of Manly, IA; numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers Orvie, Paul and Clair and sister Viola.

Iva would like to leave you with this last message, “My passing should be a happy time, as life goes on!”

Cemetery Details

Rudd Township Cemetery

Rudd, IA 50471

Tribute Wall

VM

“ Vicki Vos Milverstedt sent a virtual gift in memory of Iva Mae Gruver



vicki vos milverstedt - March 28, 2021 at 06:26 PM

CK

“ As a nurse, I cared for Iva at Community Memorial Health Center. She was a dear lady. My highlight of the day was when Judy called her mother everyday. The end of the call was “I live you too!” She will be sorely missed.

Cheryl Koel - March 17, 2021 at 09:40 AM

TM

“ As a clinic nurse I always enjoyed visiting with Iva when came for her clinic visits.

Thelma Madagan - March 12, 2021 at 03:56 PM

RE

“ Sorry for your loss Judy and family. Sending our sympathy and prayers

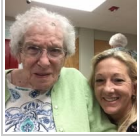


Ron and Dorothy Esser - March 12, 2021 at 02:48 PM

SB

“ *I was so fortunate to be able to care for Iva these last few years. Her "spunk" enabled her to capture everyone's heart! She definitely captured mine! I will miss her dearly. Sorry for your loss Judy and family. Keep in touch!*

Sheri Bethel - March 11, 2021 at 11:31 PM



“ I have wonderful memories of my Grandma, Iva Gruver, so I thought I'd share a few. . .

When we were old enough to ride the bus, my brother and I would get to visit her in Okoboji over the summer each year. As soon as we got off the bus, she'd hand us both some spending money for our visit. We'd go to Arnolds Park and ride the rides, buy candy and go through the Crazy House, making faces at each other in the silly mirror and laughing the whole time.

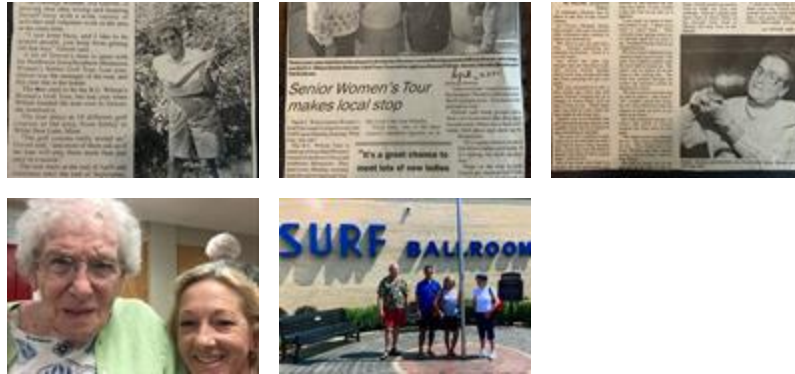
She'd also take us out on her boat and had a big tube she'd attach so we could ride it. We'd put iodine in our baby oil (her version of dark tanning oil) and lay on the seats of the boat to sunbath. When we weren't visiting she had a moped that she drove around town, and I remember thinking she was so cool because of that.

In the late 90s we took a road trip to visit my parents in Arizona together. Grandma drove to Colorado and picked up my two kids and I and we headed out. We listened to her country music and sang along as we went, we stopped to see the views along the way. I vividly remember that she didn't like the way I drove, and I didn't like the air conditioning blowing on me at full blast, so we argued along the way, but we made it there and back without hurting each other and I'm so glad, looking back, that I got to take that trip with her.

As my kids grew, she would come to visit us and we visited her a couple of times back in Iowa. I would also get surprise calls where she'd tell me she's at the Denver airport on a layover, usually to or from Las Vegas and wondered if I wanted to meet up for a meal or just to give each other a hug.

Grandma, you gave me so many wonderful memories, I will carry them with me and cherish them for the rest of my days. Thank you for the love and support you gave me. Rest In Peace, I love you, Always.

Clarinda



Clayre Oeltjenbruns Brown - March 11, 2021 at 09:08 PM

KS

“ Beautiful, kind soul



Kathleen Stockdale - March 11, 2021 at 06:14 PM

RA

“ Our deepest sympathy to



Ray and colleen Anderson - March 11, 2021 at 05:08 PM

CV

“ *Carmen Vigdal lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Carmen Vigdal - March 11, 2021 at 01:24 PM

JS

“ *My mom also lived at Sunrise and Iva was so helpful to her. I live 200 miles away so couldn't always be there but Iva kept in touch with me if there was anything I needed to know. She was extremely helpful to me when my mother passed away. Rest peacefully Miss Iva.*

Judy Sanders - March 11, 2021 at 11:12 AM

JB

“ *Jim And Annie Bauer lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Jim and Annie Bauer - March 11, 2021 at 08:24 AM

MD

“ *Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - March 10, 2021 at 10:09 PM

JG

“ *Janine Gapinsski lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Janine Gapinsski - March 10, 2021 at 10:03 PM

OC

“ *Oeltjenbruns Chris lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Oeltjenbruns Chris - March 10, 2021 at 09:45 PM

KB

“ *Kris Berning lit a candle in memory of Iva Mae Gruver*



Kris Berning - March 10, 2021 at 05:52 PM