



Jean Kestel

June 1, 1932 - January 14, 2024

Jean Ann Miller Kestel, aged 91, died January 14, 2024, surrounded by family at the Israel Family Hospice House in Ames.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday, January 24 at 10:30 AM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Milford, Iowa. Visitation will take place one hour prior to Mass. Inurnment will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Storm Lake, IA at 2:00 PM.

Jean was born in Storm Lake, Iowa along with her twin sister, Joan Marie, on June 1, 1932, to Philip and Eleanor Miles Miller. She is survived by a daughter, Barbi (Reggie) Greenlaw of Ames, IA; four grandchildren: Ryan Greenlaw of Sacramento, CA; Bryna (Michael) Halloran of Des Moines, IA; Aaron (Nicole) Call of St. Paul, MN; Bryan (Loren Hill) Call of Louisville, KY and 3 great-grandchildren, Mina Call, Franklin Call, and Willow Halloran; sisters Nancy Greaves of Fairfax, VA; Judy (Jim)Twohig of Jackson, NE; brothers, Robert Miller of Garden City, KS; James (Joy) Miller of Minneapolis, MN; and Tim (Sal) Miller of Cedar Rapids, IA.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard A. Kestel; her daughter, Jennifer Deist; an infant son, Jonathon Richard; her parents; a brother, Edward Miller; sisters Joan Burns and Marilyn Schimmer and sister-in-law, Sondra Miller; and brothers-in-law, Duane Schimmer and Gordon

Burns.

Jean graduated from Truesdale High School and Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Founding Mrs. Jean's Nursery School, she touched many young lives. She changed professions, working as a seamstress of draperies for Sears and became a decorator as her talent became apparent. She was promoted to director of decorators for the Midwest Region which spanned Chicago to Denver. She won many awards for her excellence and training of others. In retirement she pursued her many interests traveling, reading, cooking, playing cards, volunteering in her church community, and enjoying contact with her large family and many friends.

Memorials may be directed to the Ames Public Library or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN **24**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Diana F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Kestel.

Diana F. - January 24, 2024 at 10:11 AM

LC

“ Lisa, Loren, Kelly, Ryan & Cooper purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Jean Kestel.



Lisa, Loren, Kelly, Ryan & Cooper - January 23, 2024 at 08:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jean Kestel.

January 22, 2024 at 05:33 PM

CH

“ Deepest sympathies Barbi & Reggie at this very sad time. Keeping you and Jean in our thoughts and prayers. Liam & Christine xx



Christine & Liam Halloran - January 22, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jean Kestel.*



January 21, 2024 at 04:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jean Kestel.

January 19, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy, Barbi and Reggie. Jean was a very sweet lady, and I'm happy to have met her. Sue Sprong*

Sue Sprong - January 18, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Jean Kestel.*



January 18, 2024 at 02:11 PM

PB

“ Pam & Steve Davis, Thom & Jim Burns purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Jean Kestel.



Pam & Steve Davis, Thom & Jim Burns - January 18, 2024 at 10:13 AM

PB

“ Pam & Steve Davis, Thom & Jim Burns planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Kestel.

Pam & Steve Davis, Thom & Jim Burns - January 18, 2024 at 10:13 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Kestel.



January 18, 2024 at 08:56 AM

TB

“ *"Auntie Jean" was my mom's identical twin sister, and our families were close growing up.*

When I was a kid, after we'd moved from Ames to Des Moines, sometimes when Jean was in town on business, she'd drop by unannounced. One summer day she stopped over but Mom was out running a quick errand. I told her that Mom was due back any minute, and invited her to sit and have cup of coffee in the kitchen. Just then, a couple of neighborhood pals showed up, so I invited them in. They saw Jean sitting at the kitchen table and offered a cheerful "Hi, Mrs. Burns!" We had a good laugh over that. There were other instances, too.

Aunt Jean was a gourmet cook (at least by my standards), a tasteful decorator, dressed impeccably, and gave me some of my favorite childhood Christmas gifts: bubble bath in cartoon character plastic bottles--I remember a Yogi Bear and a Huckleberry Hound. I can't really put a finger on why I liked them so much--probably had more to do with the giver than the gift.

I'm grateful for Jean's kindness, patience, generosity and positive influence over the years. And especially for the gifts of Barbi and Jenni.

I'll hold my Auntie Jean's memories dear, and send Barbi and Reggie my love and sympathy.

Thom Burns - January 17, 2024 at 04:46 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jean Kestel.*



January 17, 2024 at 04:43 PM



“ *Jean Kennedy sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Kestel*



Jean Kennedy - January 17, 2024 at 10:53 AM

JK

Prayers and love to "to the other Jean" Rest in peace old friend!!

Jean Kennedy - January 17, 2024 at 11:01 AM

BD

“ *Bonnie Duhn sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Kestel*



Bonnie Duhn - January 16, 2024 at 02:06 PM

BD

Rest in peace dear friend.

Bonnie Duhn - January 16, 2024 at 02:07 PM