



Lois Eckard

September 20, 1938 - September 23, 2014

Lois Eckard (age 76) of Milford, Iowa passed away on September 23, 2014 at Good Samaritan Luther Manor in Sioux Falls, SD. Lois was born on September 20, 1938 to Fred and Kathryn (Voss) Smitherman at the Hand Hospital in Hartley.

Her early years were spent at Everly, then grade school at Baker #1 and high school years at Melvin. She graduated from Melvin High School in 1956. She attended Estherville Junior College graduating in 1958 with an Associate Degree in Education. She taught from 1958-1960 at Melvin Elementary. She taught the next 38 years at Hartley Elementary. She also continued her education at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake graduating in 1964 with her BA in Education. She married Ralph Eckard, Jr. in 1969, and they resided in Milford. She was a member of Union Memorial Church in Milford where she taught Sunday school and was a member of the Church Council.

Lois was involved in the following education groups during her teaching career: Life membership in the National Education Assn. (1970), Iowa Education Assn., the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (HMS) Education Assn, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Int'l - Alpha Tau Chapter (1966 - she was Treasurer from 1973-2011); since 2011 she has been a member of the Chi Chapter, and a Director of the Iowa Great Lakes Foundation since 2011. She was named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1994, and received Volunteer Awards from HMS in 2004, the Iowa Governor's Award in 2004, and the Presidential Award in 2005. After retirement, she substitute taught for 11

years at HMS, as well as volunteered for classroom teachers at HMS Elementary and Johnson Elementary in Spencer.

Lois' other volunteer activities included: reading stories at the Milford Nursing Home once a month since 1989, delivering Meals on Wheels, working the Red Cross Blood Mobile, and playing "Mrs. Claus" at local schools, nursing homes and libraries each December.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents Fred and Kathryn Smitherman, and her husband, Ralph Eckard, Jr. She is survived by her sister, Nancy Hebrink (Dennis) of Wyoming, MN; her brother-in-law, Jim Eckard, of Estherville; her sister-in-law, Mary Eckard, of Roseburg, OR; as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 18, at 11:00 a.m. at Union Memorial Church, 805 Okoboji Avenue, Milford. Visitation will be Friday, October 17, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home, 2317 32nd Street, Spirit Lake. Inurnment will be at Pleasant View Cemetery, Hartley. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Lois' name.

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Lois Eckard*

Chad Schuchert - October 08, 2014 at 09:47 AM

LL

“ *Miss you, but know your are with the Lord,
Will always remember all the good times we shared!
See you later sister Lois*

Lin Larson - October 01, 2014 at 10:53 AM

MS

“ *lois had a heart of gold. She was my grandmother evelyn moritz
neighbor for many years always there to keep her company and
lend a hand.*

melissa sebastian - September 30, 2014 at 08:56 AM

RW

“ *Lois was as natural as sunlight, as boisterous as a thunder clap and
as gentle as a spring breeze. She was a special friend to us and our
family. She was surely one-of-a-kind and will be greatly missed.
Jerry and Rochelle Wegman*

Rochelle Wegman - September 29, 2014 at 08:44 AM

BW

“ *Will miss your laugh and smile Lois. You were in Hartley when I was
in school there, and that is many years ago. What a stellar teaching
career you had. We need more like you! I know you are enjoying
your heavenly home.*

Bev Sauer Wittler - September 27, 2014 at 11:38 AM

MR

“Lois was a wonderful friend. Her smile, laugh, jokes, large heart, and most of all her friendship will be missed. She always brought laughter where ever she was. I will always remember her for reading to the Milford Nursing Home residents and Mrs. Claus. She took pride in both of those joys.

Marge Roskens - September 26, 2014 at 10:05 PM

SM

“I'll miss running into you!

Sheryl McKeivitt - September 26, 2014 at 08:05 PM

MT

“Lois had a heart of gold when it came to giving of herself, her time, and talents to help someone else out. She had a laugh we can never forget and her friendship and smile will be missed by many in the Milford area. Rest in Peace Lois. We will always remember your friendship.

Mike & Deb Travis - September 26, 2014 at 03:58 PM

GR

“Please accept my Condolence, May God Almighty of Tender Mercies Comfort the Eckard family (2Co. 1:3,4). When the last Enemy strikes grief maybe Great And make the Heart yearn for Comfort, God Almighty gives HOPE And PROMISE At (JOHN 5:28, ACTS 24:15, ISAIAH 26:19 And REVELATION 21:4), God Almighty HOPE And PROMISE IS SOON TO BE ATTAIN. May these Thoughts be of some Comfort. For more Bible Thoughts visit @ www.jw.org.

Ginger Robinson - September 25, 2014 at 06:28 PM

GC

“ Lois- my friend, my bowling partner, my supporter. All of the bowling trips all over the Unite States. You were our tour guide. You always new what was going to be going on while we were in a strange city. You will be missed by many. God be with you and your family and friends.

Gloria Christenson - September 25, 2014 at 05:23 PM

DP

“ What's not to miss! Her laughter, her emails that sometimes made me blush, her generosity to all who knew her especially her sharing of recipes and flowers/bulbs. I will remember my friend each and every time I am in my flower garden!

We give Lois back to you, dear Lord,
Who first gave her to us.
And as you did not lose Lois in the giving,
So we do not lose her in the return.

Rest in peace my friend.

Don and Bea Platt - September 25, 2014 at 11:23 AM

KM

“ the Studer family remembers you well....your memory will live on.....

kathy Studer Morrill - September 25, 2014 at 11:16 AM

CT

“ Lois was a wonderful TEACHER, Mrs. Claus and just a great friend with a wonderful smile and laugh. She will be missed by many but her memory will live on. We were so happy to have her as part of our lives.

Chuck and Donna Tielbur - September 25, 2014 at 10:09 AM

SH

“ Okoboji Elementary always enjoyed seeing Mrs. Claus (Lois) at our school at Christmas time when she read stories to the students and handed out candy canes!

Sharon Hanson - September 24, 2014 at 05:18 PM

LM

“ Lois was always with a smile and a kind word
She will be missed

Lynne Moeller - September 24, 2014 at 01:33 PM

CG

“ will miss her laugh and stories. Lois was a wonderful person.

Connie G - September 24, 2014 at 12:33 PM