



## Mary Newton

June 1, 1923 - January 2, 2023

On January 2, 2023, Mary L. McBreen Newton, loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and special friend to many, passed away at the age of 99.

Mary was born on June 1, 1923, on a farm south of Superior, Iowa to John Joseph McBreen and Mazie Gem Gilbert McBreen. Mary grew up with her parents and six siblings on the family farm, tending to the many responsibilities of farming. Mary loved school and graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1941. After graduating from high school, she wanted more than anything to become a nurse. She attended Saint Joseph Mercy College of Nursing and graduated with an RN degree in 1944.

On Labor Day 1944, Mary McBreen met Grover “Bud” Newton at a dance at the Roof Garden in Arnolds Park, Iowa. The stars aligned for Mary and Bud. After a short and sweet courtship between Sioux City and St. Olaf College, where Bud was in the US Navy attending flight school, Mary and Bud were married. The ceremony took place on the St. Olaf campus at St. Dominic’s Catholic Church, presided over by Father James O’Hara on December 28, 1944.

After Bud was discharged from the Navy, Bud and Mary farmed for twelve years in the Spirit Lake area. They then moved to Tucson, Arizona for three years to spend time with Mary’s father, Joe McBreen. In 1961 they moved

back to Spirit Lake and farmed for six more years. Mary always loved living on the farm. Country life meant a lot to her. According to Mary, “It is so peaceful on the farm and in the country.”

Of course, Mary loved nursing, too. As a dedicated and caring nurse, Mary’s nursing career spanned over 40 years. She worked in hospitals from Northfield, Minnesota, to Athens, Georgia to Atlantic City, NJ, to Marcus Snyder Memorial in Spirit Lake, Iowa, to Tucson Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona, and finally to Dickinson County Memorial Hospital in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Her very favorite role as a nurse was in maternity, labor, and delivery.

Once Mary and Bud retired, they spent 30 joyful years being snowbirds in Tucson, Arizona and living in Lake Okoboji in the summer months. Mary and Bud spent many years enjoying golfing with their friends and hosting golf parties. One of Mary’s many passions during retirement was keeping up to date with computer technology...she was a whiz using the internet. She loved keeping up with friends through email and making creative birthday cards for all of her family and friends far and wide.

Left to cherish her memory are two sons and two daughters and their spouses — Mike and Kathy Newton, Kate and David Dickson, John and Darla Newton, JoAnne and Ben McCullough; eight grandchildren—Tim and Elizabeth Newton, David Newton, Jeni Thompson, Mark Newton, Mollie Harris, Rose Dickson, and Kelly Rose McCullough; and eight great grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Bud; infant daughter Kelly Anne; parents Joe and Maize Gem McBreen; five brothers—George, Wendell, John, James, and William; and sister Patricia McBreen Grimm.

Mary’s love transformed the lives of her family, friends, and everyone she encountered. She brought a bounty of love to everything she did...with her optimism, smile and unbounded curiosity. She had a remarkable ability to connect with people, share herself and inspire that same spirit of love in each

person she knew.

There will be a Celebration of Life and visitation on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9:30 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church. A Catholic Mass will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 10:30 AM at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. A lunch will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in memory of Mary to: Lakes Regional Healthcare Homecare Hospice. Lakes Regional Hospital Volunteers, Women's VFW Auxiliary, Wel-Life Spirit Lake, Iowa, and St Mary's Catholic Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
1005 Hill Ave.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

## Memorial Service

JAN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
1005 Hill Ave.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

## Graveside Service

JAN 6. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Margaret's Cemetery  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Newton*



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**Robinson Funeral Home** - January 04, 2023 at 02:03 PM

CR

*Mary was a precious friend. We had many great visits in the past years. She remained sharp until the very end. She delivered so many babies, my two sons among those. She will be missed by so many! She was a lady that you couldn't forget once you met her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whole Newton family. May God bless you with precious memories. She and Bud are together again, in the arms of Jesus!*

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**Charlene Radcliffe** - January 05, 2023 at 07:59 PM

LH

*I came to know Mary through the home bound ministry, she was truly a beautiful spirit and will be greatly missed.*  
*Linda Hansen*

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**linda hansen** - January 07, 2023 at 08:12 AM

LP

*My daughter Denise was born at Olympic Memorial Hosp on the eve shift and Mary came on duty for the night shift. It was nice to know we were in good hands. Mary was also working the day my dad RC Mathews came in with a coronary event and brought office work with him. Mary promptly walked into his room, informed him he was there to rest, not work and took his paper work out of his room! She was probably the only person who could get away with that. She was a good woman!*

*Linda Mathews-Hawkins-Paulson*

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**Linda Paulson** - January 15, 2023 at 02:01 PM

CR

*“ My husband and I worked with Mary at Dickinson County back in the olden days. She was a joy and a pleasure to work with and was an excellent clinician! You have my hearty condolences. We used to call her Rootin' Tootin" Mary Newton. So sorry for your sadness.*



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**Claudia Rapp** - January 11, 2023 at 06:25 PM

JT

*“ Mary was a wonderful nurse. As an EMT I loved working ambulance and ER when Mary was working at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital, now Lakes Regional Hospital. I learned so much from her. Rest in Peace dear lady!!!*



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**Julie Thiesen** - January 06, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *Mary was My Nurse when My 1st Son Jamie was born, I'll Never forget! My 1st Baby, I was in Sooo Much pain, My Hubby was overseas with the Army and I was Scared too But, Mary was Sooo Helpful and Comforting! She's obtained Her Angel Wings Now! Fly With The Angels Mary!*



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**Ruth Albrant** - January 06, 2023 at 01:44 AM

BW

“ *I knew Mary for many years. I finally remember her standing beside my journey holding my hand before I was taken down to surgery for appendicitis. I was so scared and she had that comforting hand that I needed. She was a great person and I will never forget her she was around a good part of the time that I myself lived in Spirit Lake and worked at the hospital. My greatest condolences to all of her family and friends who I'm sure will miss her dearly. May God grant you his peace during this difficult time.*

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**Beverly J Wittler** - January 05, 2023 at 10:12 PM

BW

*>I meant gurney*

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**Beverly J Wittler** - January 05, 2023 at 10:17 PM

LM

“ *Classmate Mike and sister Kathy, I am thinking of you at this time as I remember when i list my mom in 2014. Life is never quite the same without our parents but the seeds they planted in us we have forever. I am sorry for your loss and send prayers.*

*Linda ( Weik) Moore*

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**Linda Moore** - January 05, 2023 at 10:04 PM

BF

“ We feel very privileged to have known Mary and Bud. Mary was the best OB nurse that I ever worked with. She had knowledge, experience, patience, energy, and the most delightful personality. Our deepest sympathies and prayers to her family that she loved so much.

*Brian and Jane Ford*

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**Brian Ford** - January 05, 2023 at 09:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Newton.



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January 04, 2023 at 08:48 PM

PD

“ Peg, Ron, Mary, Don purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Newton.



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**Peg, Ron, Mary, Don** - January 04, 2023 at 01:23 PM

SS

“ What a wonderful legacy Mary leaves with a family beyond compare. Each of you gives me memories over the years.

*Stan and Rhea Sybesma*

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**Stan Sybesma** - January 04, 2023 at 10:01 AM

CA

“ Take comfort in all your wonderful memories.



Cheryl Aumer - January 03, 2023 at 06:21 PM

RL

“ Our deepest sympathy to Mary’s family. Mary was a very special person in life! She taught me so much in the field of nursing and we enjoyed golfing with her too.

Rod and Connie Lange

Rod and Connie Lange - January 03, 2023 at 06:06 PM

BS

“ Mary was a woman you never forgot, once you met her. Our sympathy to all who loved her. The light of her soul, will continue to guide us. May she rest in eternal peace.



Bob and Kate Shaw - January 03, 2023 at 03:55 PM

FJ

“ Fran Jungjohan lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton



Fran Jungjohan - January 03, 2023 at 11:53 AM

LF

“ Love, Shirley Walston & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary Newton.



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**Love, Shirley Walston & Family** - January 03, 2023 at 10:53 AM

PR

“ Mary was my nurse for my first daughter. She was my hero. Bless her life. She touched so many.

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**Peggy Rick** - January 03, 2023 at 10:23 AM

DE

*What an incredible lady!!! Mary touched our lives in so many ways. We loved her and we will miss her. Deenie and Jim Schuchert*

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**Deenie** - January 03, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JJ

“ Jim & Connie Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton



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**Jim & Connie Jackson** - January 03, 2023 at 10:06 AM

LS

“ So sorry to hear this, Mary was a great freind to my mom and dad (John and Shirley Walston). I remember those golfing days and then their get togethers at one of their houses. Thoughts and prayers to you!



**Lisa Sharp** - January 03, 2023 at 09:51 AM

BK

“ Bruce Klenken lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton



**Bruce Klenken** - January 03, 2023 at 09:45 AM

SD

“ Both Mary and Bud were such kind people. Always felt very welcome. Hugs and prayers to the Newton family.

**Sally Christensen DeLoss** - January 03, 2023 at 09:30 AM

SF

“ Blessings and prayers go out to the Newtons.

**Sunny and Harold Fronk** - January 03, 2023 at 09:29 AM

JB

“ It was an HONOR to know Mary and care for her. No matter how she was feeling she always made sure that those around her knew that they were appreciated and that what they did made a difference to her. I will miss our talks and her beautiful smile. Heaven certainly gained a very special angel.

**Jodi Bunde** - January 03, 2023 at 09:25 AM

TK

“ Joann, You mom was always the sweetest person when we used to play at your house. So sorry for your loss. Theresa Baird Kuiper

Theresa Kuiper - January 03, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ It was a joy and a privilege to know Mary. Everyone loved her and she will be greatly missed. Good night, sweet prince(ss), and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest”.

Connie Mueller - January 03, 2023 at 08:13 AM

AM

“ Our sympathy to the Newton family. Mary was a special lady and now you have one very special angel. Hugs and prayers for each of you.



Alan and Reba Munson - January 03, 2023 at 07:21 AM

AR

“ Mary was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known - and also an excellent nurse. She was always positive and I remember having her as a nurse years ago and how she always found time to listen to her patients.

Adrienne Rumbaugh - January 03, 2023 at 07:15 AM

DP

“ *Darlene Powers lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton*



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**Darlene Powers** - January 03, 2023 at 07:07 AM

KF

“ *Too the Newton family, sorry to hear of Mary's passing, what a wonderful woman she was, she will be remembered and missed!*



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**Ken and Terri Farmer** - January 02, 2023 at 09:10 PM

DB

“ *Bud and Mary were such great neighbors to my mother when they lived in the duplex in Okoboji, and I will always love them for that. My condolences and prayers are with you all.*  
*David Buckingham*

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**David Buckingham** - January 02, 2023 at 08:40 PM

DF

“ *Dean Hummel Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Newton.*



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**Dean Hummel Family** - January 02, 2023 at 08:33 PM

DE

“ Oh I have so many memories, she was my trainer for labor and delivery and she took care of my youngest and me post partum! She was a work horse! Always going at high speed. I remember her one time had paged over the intercom at the hospital and didn't realize she was "on", she was talking away! All got a good laugh. She had the most beautiful heart. AMAZING woman!



Debbie - January 02, 2023 at 08:22 PM

SC

Mary was one of the sweetest ladies ever. She will be missed and I feel for her family. Mary and I had a special prayer and it has been answered. She is now with the love of her life ( Bud). Mary was one of a kind. Will miss you Mary !!!

Sharon Caskey - January 02, 2023 at 10:51 PM

CG

“ Mary was a great mentor, friend and nurse. Always positive and great humor



Connie Gossman - January 02, 2023 at 08:19 PM

EI

“ Esther Irlbeck lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton



Esther Irlbeck - January 02, 2023 at 08:04 PM

MM

“ *Ich she was a wonderful OB nurse!*



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**Mari Mulhern** - January 02, 2023 at 06:48 PM

DB

“ *I'm sorry for your loss. My sympathy to your family.*

*Dayle Brooks*



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**Dayle Brooks** - January 02, 2023 at 06:39 PM

JB

“ *Jim And Annie Bauer lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton*



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**Jim and Annie Bauer** - January 02, 2023 at 05:54 PM

JB

*Our sincere condolences to Mary's Family. She was an amazing lady. It was a joy to work around her at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital. Mary was the best OB nurse and so kind and encouraging to her patients. It was a privilege to have known her. ❤️*

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**Jim and Annie Bauer** - January 07, 2023 at 05:59 PM

SK

“*Mary was one of the best. I always felt at home while I was their house. My sympathies to you all.*”



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**Sally Kness** - January 02, 2023 at 05:40 PM

JC

“*Jeff And Linda Christoffer sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Newton*”



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**Jeff and Linda Christoffer** - January 02, 2023 at 04:57 PM

JC

*Love you Mary..💕😭💔...  
God had blessed us with YOU..*

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**Jeff and Linda Christoffer** - January 02, 2023 at 05:00 PM

BA

“*Mary was a light to everyone she met. She gave my niece and great niece their first bath at home. Heaven has gained a wonderful lady, one terrific RN. Miss you my friend.*”

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**Beverly Atwell** - January 02, 2023 at 04:44 PM

WK

“ *Mary was such a dear, sweet lady, ever ready to share a kind word or funny story that would make hearts smile. Our sympathies and prayers are with Mary’s family.* ”



Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen - January 02, 2023 at 04:19 PM



“ *Mary Ellen Inbody lit a candle in memory of Mary Newton* ”



Mary Ellen Inbody - January 02, 2023 at 02:57 PM



*So sorry to hear!! My sympathy to the family!*

Mary Ellen Inbody - January 02, 2023 at 02:57 PM

BG

*JoAnne, I am sorry to hear about your mom. Prayers for your family.*

Brenda Griffin - January 02, 2023 at 08:35 PM

LB

*My daughter's nurse in 1981..what a Spirit Lake Icon..Was loved by everyone..Always had such a warm smile and friendly to all...You will be missed Mary-but oh, what a great legacy you have left...Linda (Radtke) Baltzegar*

Linda K Baltzegar - January 02, 2023 at 10:05 PM

CP

*Many years ago Mary asked me to help with Labor and Delivery classes. We had fun together and I learned so much from her. She was a special lady, not to be forgotten.*

Cyndy Powers - January 05, 2023 at 05:29 PM