



## Ruth M. Barnard

August 28, 1920 - September 22, 2019

Ruth M. Barnard, 99, of Spirit Lake passed away on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at Accura Healthcare of Spirit Lake.

Memorial services for Ruth will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will take place in the St. Alban's Episcopal Church Columbarium.

Ruth was born at home August 28, 1920, on a farm near Royal Iowa. She was the first of five children. Life was a hard life growing up there in the depression. She picked corn by hand with her father before she went to school. She and her brother Don swore that when they grew up they wouldn't be cold or hungry again. Upon graduating high school she worked at Frank's Cafe and then Bjornstad Drug for 4 years where her future mother-in-law said "I want you to meet my son when he is home on leave." They met and fell in love in December of 1942. Ruth then rode a train, alone, from Iowa to Pyote Texas to marry Bob Barnard where he was stationed with the Air Force. They married on his birthday 11/7/1943.

After the war Ruth and Bob worked his Uncle George's farm in the 40's for 4 years near Gillett Grove and then moved to Monahans Texas in 1951 where she worked as a long lines operator for Southern Bell while Bob was a roustabout in the oil fields. Later they moved to St. Louis and together worked for Wagner Electric until 1954 when they adopted a baby girl and returned to Iowa. Ruth was a stay at home Mom for the first couple of years in Petersen. In 1959 they moved to Spencer, she got a job at Stub's Ranch Kitchen as a

waitress, then at Nelson's Children Shop and Women's Shop as a sales clerk. In 1967 they moved to Hartley where she worked at the Hartley Drugstore. After their daughter graduated high school Bob and Ruth headed west to Fort Collins Colorado where she worked for Forney's Factory in the shipping department. They retired back to Spirit Lake in 1980. She worked at Billie's Dress Shop and began modeling at their summer fashion shows. She modeled her wedding gown when she was in her 70's.

Ruth liked baking apple pies and butterscotch bars. After work she would come home and wash the floors, clean house, bake and put her hair up in rollers. She slept in them so she would look nice at work the next day or at church. Before bed she'd have a cup of coffee and put her feet up and read the newspaper. In their 60's she and Bob began working at the Clay County Fair and for the next fifteen years sold tickets at the east entrance. They both loved talking with people. In 1938 when she was a waitress at Franks Cafe she "waited on a giant." The world's tallest man, Robert Wadlow, was part of the Clay County Fair, "he came to the cafe, ate two chickens and gave a big tip". No wonder she loved the fair and visited the fair on September 10, 2019 one last time at age 99. She loved to drink coffee and the color green. She was proud to be 100% Dane. She practiced chair and laughter yoga the last nine years of her life.

Ruth and Bob loved to dance to big band music of the 40's and would often dance at the Roof Garden and other dance halls throughout their lives. They kept on dancing until Bob got Parkinson's. Ruth kept him at home, taking care of him for 13 years. The last 7 months of his life were spent at Hilltop Care Center where she visited him everyday.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Martha Helen Barnard, her son-in-law Chad Branham, her sister Naomi Adams and Naomi's children Ned Adams and Jean Ferneding as well as some cousins and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Robert K. Barnard, her parents Henry and Martha Jespersen, her brothers Don and Wesley Jespersen and sister Eunice Binder.

The urn with her ashes will be placed next to her husband's in the columbarium at St. Albans Episcopal church on November 7, 2019, their 76th wedding anniversary so she can be with her husband once again.

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St Alban's Episcopal Church  
2011 23rd St  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
(712) 336-1117

# Tribute Wall

AO

“ All your friends at Yoga Okoboji purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ruth M. Barnard.



All your friends at Yoga Okoboji - November 04, 2019 at 09:39 AM

AF

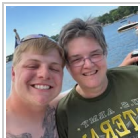
“ I grew up across the street from Bob & Ruth on Adams Avenue. They were the sweetest neighbors - always supporting our school functions/fundraising and making special Halloween treat bags for my brother & I. I even remember Bob playing Santa at Christmas when I was very young. I am so sorry for your loss!

Abby Friedrichsen - October 01, 2019 at 02:58 PM

MB

Thanks for sharing this memory. They loved kids coming over at Halloween. Mom always keep count. Dad was a great Santa. I am so proud of them both and to be their daughter.

Marta Barnard - October 13, 2019 at 03:28 PM



“ Sheryl McKeivitt lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard



Sheryl McKeivitt - September 27, 2019 at 01:00 AM

MN

“ *Your mother had an amazing life - carry on her genuine spirit. Know that she is with you every moment of the day. Love to you Marta*



Michelle Nambe' - September 26, 2019 at 03:10 PM

MB

*Namaste Fati*

Marta Barnard - September 26, 2019 at 03:51 PM

LS

“ *It was a joy to get to know Ruth, through my mother at the Accura care center! She will be missed by many, our condolences to you and your family! Always so kind and pleasant. Sincerely, Lori*

Lori Sheeler - September 26, 2019 at 01:30 PM

MB

*Thank you Lori*

Marta Barnard - September 26, 2019 at 03:51 PM

TM

“ *I have fond memories of Ruth in Bible Study with the ever-present cup of coffee!  
May she rest in peace.*

*Fr. Carl+*

The Rev. Carl D. Mann - September 26, 2019 at 11:38 AM

MB

*Thank you. She loved you.*

Marta Barnard - September 26, 2019 at 03:55 PM

SH

“ *Such a lovely, sweet, capable woman in green, known for her friendliness to everyone and her love for her husband and daughter. It has been a privilege to know Ruth and we appreciate her life story so well expressed in her obituary. Rest In Peace.*

-----  
**Sheryl Hall** - September 26, 2019 at 11:31 AM

MB

*Thank you Sheryl. Glad for all the chats she had with your folks these last few years. They made each other smile.*

-----  
**Marta Barnard** - September 26, 2019 at 03:56 PM

AS

“ *My first (of many long-distance) meet up with Bob and Ruth was at Ruth's "when I'm 64" birthday party in Boulder thrown by Marta -- complete with lawn croquet and icy drinks. That was 35 years ago! They provided one of my homes away from home -- from Boulder, Chicago, Ohio and Portland, ME. What a strong loving web they wove!*

-----  
**Assunta** - September 25, 2019 at 06:35 PM

MB

*Bless you my friend. Thanks for all your visits and love.*

-----  
**Marta Barnard** - September 26, 2019 at 03:54 PM

JF

“ *Jodi and Dick Thornton and family. purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Ruth M. Barnard.*



-----  
**Jodi and Dick Thornton and family.** - September 25, 2019 at 06:03 PM

CW

“ *Candi Whitteburg lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



Candi Whitteburg - September 25, 2019 at 05:50 PM

CW

*Sorry for your loss, I know green was Ruth's favorite color. 🙏*

Candi Whitteburg - September 25, 2019 at 05:52 PM

SD

“ *So sorry to hear about your mother's passing. When I took meals to her she would always have me come in to visit for a moment. Very nice lady.*

Sandy Dau - September 25, 2019 at 09:29 AM

MB

*Figured out how to say thanks here. Thanks for the hug today!*

Marta Barnard - September 26, 2019 at 03:58 PM

FK

“ *Fred Kaminska lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



Fred Kaminska - September 24, 2019 at 02:41 PM

CK

“ *Chris Kielman lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



Chris Kielman - September 24, 2019 at 11:49 AM

KS

“ *Karen Stoller lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



Karen Stoller - September 24, 2019 at 10:28 AM

JT

“ *Janelle Treganza lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



Janelle Treganza - September 24, 2019 at 09:11 AM

ME

“ *We were so lucky to have Bob & Ruth as our neighbors. They were family. We loved them. How blessed we were. When our son was married we watched them dance across the room in utter adoration of each other. And they dance now. And we are in awe.*

Marlyn & Nancy Ellis - September 23, 2019 at 09:51 PM

MB

*What a beautiful tribute. Thanks for that and all the years you took care of them. Bless you both.*

**Marta Barnard** - September 26, 2019 at 03:56 PM

BW

“ *Betty Wernimont lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



**Betty Wernimont** - September 23, 2019 at 09:42 PM

BW

“ *Ruth was a wonderful lady always enjoyed sitting and talking with her. Loved sitting with Ruth and my Mom while they had lunch or dinner together and listen to them talk about growing up and hearing stories. Ruth will be missed but always watching over all of us. God bless your family BettyWernimont*

**Betty Wernimont** - September 23, 2019 at 09:41 PM

MB

*I loved that they enjoyed each other so much. Thank you.*

**Marta Barnard** - September 26, 2019 at 03:57 PM

LH

“ *Ruth was a bright spot in the world. I treasure the times we shared, the coffee we drank and the music we sang. God bless her family and friends. Ruth's life was well-lived.*



**Laura Hanna** - September 23, 2019 at 05:08 PM

MB

*Thanks for all those songs. Bless you. She loved you.*

**Marta Barnard** - September 26, 2019 at 04:00 PM

NR

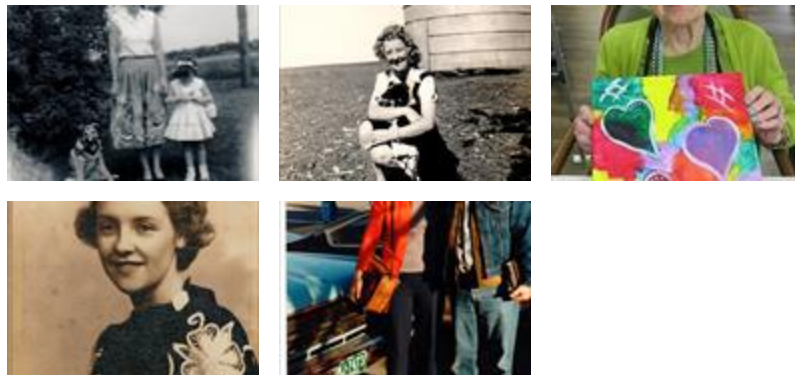
“ *Nancy Rees lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Barnard*



**Nancy Rees** - September 23, 2019 at 04:58 PM

CB

“ *10 files added to the album Memories Album*



**Chad Branham** - September 23, 2019 at 04:34 PM