



Wilma Dreeszen

September 14, 1934 - November 18, 2013

Wilma Mae (Bates) Dreeszen was born September 14, 1934, to Lela (McKiernan) and Lester Bates on a farm in Excelsior township west of Milford, IA.

Five years later, her sister, Ruby Louise, was born. And a few years after that, the family moved to Spencer. Wilma graduated from Spencer High School in 1952.

She met Duane Dreeszen at the roller rink in Arnold's Park, where she worked renting skates. Duane grew to be quite a skater, as he spent many hours there...for obvious reasons.

They married on Christmas Day 1952, in the Congregational Church in Spencer. Duane hitch-hiked home from Ft Leonard Wood, MO, just in time for the service.

They lived in apartments in a couple places while Duane was in the service before moving to the farm in Spirit Lake permanently.

Together, they raised 4 sons and 2 daughters and operated a busy dairy farm for many years.

Wilma embraced the life of a farmer's wife. She loved gardening and flowers. It was a full-time job doing chores and keeping 6 kids fed and clothed. She was active as a 4-H leader for many years. She was dedicated to her church and participated in church Circle for many years. She could even quote her confirmation verse to us...Romans 5:1. She was happy to volunteer for many different activities with the Women's group there. She belonged to Garden

Club and Friendship Club. She was a killer bridge player and didn't ever turn down the chance to play cards especially after she moved to Wel-Life Assisted Living. Her friends called her Willie. Wilma was a talented seamstress, and could knit, crochet and embroider beautifully. She created her own tradition by making hooded baby towels for all babies born in the neighborhood as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She and Duane played 500 with the neighborhood routinely. She also enjoyed bowling, and she and Duane saw a lot of the US as they traveled together to bowling tournaments each year. In recent years, she was a regular member of the Breakfast Club and also traveled with a core of girlfriends from the class of '52. She spent many years on the Resident Advocate Board of Hilltop Care Center and volunteered there frequently.

She is survived by her children, David (& Nancy) of Spirit Lake, Daniel (& Robbin) of Spirit Lake, Linda (& Dean) Eckard of Hanover, MN, Donald (& Roxi) of Spirit Lake, Dr. Lisa Dreeszen (& Dr. Craig Baker) of Estherville, Dean (& Diane) of Spirit Lake; her sister, Ruby (& Art) Caskey of Riverview, FL; 15 grandchildren, Brian, Abbie Jo, Kate, Boomer, Danielle, Adam, Jake, Jessica, Nathan, Kayla, Derek, Abby Rae, Shannon, Ryan and Brianna; 7 great-grandchildren, Rachel, Christine, Ava, Conner, Owen, Maggie, and Lily; as well as many cousins; and nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Lela and Lester; and her husband, Duane.

Wilma loved all her kids whole-heartedly and they were happy to take the back seat as the grandkids and great-grandkids arrived. It was routine for her to have extra kids around of all ages all the time.

She continues to teach us through her unwavering faith in her Lord and her belief that her life was everything God had planned for her. We'll miss her smile, her wit, and her quiet strength.

A memorial visitation for Wilma, who passed away on Monday, November 18, 2013, will be held Sunday, November 24, 2013, from 2:00P.M. until 5:00P.M. at the Schuchert Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. A memorial service will be held

at 10:30A.M. Monday, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Wilma's name to Joyful Journeys or the American Legion.

Tribute Wall

GG

“ Wilma was one of the first ladies I met at church...she was such a lovely lady and was always so cheerful! Later when she was at Hill Top I brought her a comfort quilt that the ladies at Immanuel church made..and visited her often as my step mom Audrey Lempiainen is also at Hill Top! I will miss her and know she is with the Lord and has no more pain or suffering!! God Bless you all and my deepest sympathy!

Georgette Giest - December 10, 2013 at 11:15 PM

V(

“ To Wilma's Children,
I was in high school with your Mom & also with our group that had mini-reunions. We had so much fun.
Vern & I also did some visiting with both your Mom & Dad when they came out to Arizona for the winter months. Very good times.
I also went to see her @ the nursing home in Nov. while in Spirit Lake for my sisters funeral (Lois Lynn). Donna Chaplin & I had a nice visit with her.
She was good person & lots of fun. She will be missed!

Vern & Jan Smith (Ralle) - December 10, 2013 at 04:15 PM

SL

“ Lisa and family, We are so sorry for your loss. It sounds as if you will have many good memories of your mother. Let them keep you warm in your sorrow.

Steve & Marilyn Loy - November 25, 2013 at 09:03 AM

JG

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. Thoughts and prayers to all of you. *Janine Gapinski*

Janine Gapinski - November 23, 2013 at 12:46 PM

CS

“ *Wilma Dreeszen*

Chad Schuchert - November 21, 2013 at 10:10 AM

JC

“ *I'm so glad that I could visit your mom at Wel-Life and HillTop when our moms would get their hair fixed. She will always be a special lady, God Bless you all.*

Jeff and Linda Christoffer - November 21, 2013 at 09:07 AM

WK

“ *We are thinking of you at this time. Our mothers are so precious to us, so our hearts are with you.*

Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen - November 20, 2013 at 09:21 PM

SR

“ *Dan and family....thinking of you at this time. I always enjoyed visiting with your mom when she called to place an ad for the soup supper. What a special lady!*

Susan Reiser - November 19, 2013 at 10:39 PM

SC

“ I know how sad the children are for the void that is now in their lives. I am so happy that Willy is now where she has wanted to be for the last year. She knew she was going to be with the Lord, family and friends. It only took her longer than she thought it should. We prayed together that she could make the journey. I cry because I will miss her wit and years of friendship. She was a great mom, wife and friend. I have beautiful, fun memories she left behind for me. God Bless you Willy.

Sharon Caskey - November 19, 2013 at 04:30 PM

TW

“ Sorry to of your loss of Wilma. May the family find peace knowing she is in a better place.

Terry & Jessica Williams - November 19, 2013 at 03:35 PM

CI

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss of Wilma - what a wonderful woman, so kind and sincere. No words can explain the loss of your mother - the one that glues the families together. So glad that I was able to see her at my mom's services, she always had that wonderful smile on her face. Find peace in knowing that she's in a better place.

Cheryl Hummel Ihry - November 19, 2013 at 05:13 AM

SO

“ Linda and family, I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was such a nice lady. Linda I remember her and all the fun times at the farm when we were in high school. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Sheryl (Tenney) Ogle - November 18, 2013 at 08:04 PM

SD

“ *I am sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I always enjoyed running in to her at the Church or somewhere and visiting with her. She was a kind lady. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Take care.*

Sally Christensen DeLoss - November 18, 2013 at 12:20 PM