



Ava Burke

January 31, 1912 - June 3, 2007

Ava M. Burke (1912-2007)

Ava was born January 31, 1912, in Shell Rock, Iowa, the daughter of Robert and Libby (Burns) Miller. She attended school at Norton Corners, a one-room schoolhouse, and had older sisters as teachers. She graduated from Shell Rock High School in 1929.

On September 4, 1938, she was united in marriage to James K. Burke at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. They lived in Clarksville, Iowa for several years before moving to Waterloo around 1942.

Ava had been employed as a Pharmacist Tech at Scully Pharmacy, Big T and Schoitz Memorial Hospital.

In January 1995 she and James moved to Wind Grace in Cedar Falls. They enjoyed traveling and she was proud to say she visited 48 states, not making it to North and South Carolina. James preceded her in death November 1997. Ava celebrated her 95th birthday, receiving over 100 cards from friends and family. She had been Past Noble Grand of Happy Thought Rebekah Lodge 256.

Survivors include her daughters Sharon (John) Helming of Bettendorf, IA, Joan (James) Day of Cedar Falls, IA and Jacquelyn (Ronald) Smith of Ames, IA; ten grandchildren, Alison Helming of Bettendorf, IA, Eric (Jodi) Helming of East Meadow, NY, Jennifer (Brian) Masterson, San Antonio, TX, Christine (David) Frank of Minneapolis, MN, Jeremy (Karen) Day of San Antonio, TX,

Kara (Nathan) McKeen of Cedar Falls, IA, Dean Dirksen of Iowa City, IA, Nathan (Amy) Smith of West Des Moines, IA, Amy Jo (William) McGregor of Addison, TX, and Sarah (Marty) Bauer of Des Moines, IA; and 13 great grandchildren.

Ava died peacefully at Western Home Communities- Thalman Square on Sunday, June 3, 2007.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a daughter, Nancy Burke Dirksen; a son-in-law, Jon P. Dirksen; nine brothers and sisters, Lora Miller, Lila Olson, Etta Lobdell, Neva Miller, Merle Miller, Lester Miller, Harland Miller, and two in infancy.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan, Sharon and Jackie, and all of Ava's family
Your Mother will be greatly missed. Knowing her and you family for
so many years has been a blessing. Both our families are very lucky
to have grown up with such a good family and neighbors. We had
some really good times and your Mom always seemed like our
second Mother.
She was such a sweet and good person. With Love and Sympathy
Sissy*

June 07, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the family of Ava Burke; this is such a lost, to have lost Ava so
quick. We knew that time was winding down, but who knew that it
would have been then? I want to say to Joan you did the best you
could and don't feel like you didn't do enough because you did more
than enough and you did all that you could and now she is in the
lord's hands. With my deepest sympathy, you and your family are in
my prayers.....DaNesha Huggins*

June 06, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joan, Jim, and all of Ava's family.....with my sincere
sympathy.....
Linda McNeal*

June 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM