



Ellen Mae Opsal

September 22, 1930 - January 11, 2022

Cedar Falls – Ellen Mae Opsal, age 91, of Cedar Falls, died Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at Western Home Communities – Deery Suites.

Ellen was born September 22, 1930 in Audubon, Iowa, the daughter of William Sr. and Vera (Rutherford) Boust. She graduated from Audubon High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1965. On December 7, 1956, Ellen was united in marriage to Elling Opsal in Cedar Falls. He preceded her in death on May 11, 1993. Ellen worked for Cedar Falls Community Schools as a first grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, retiring in 1995 after teaching for over 40 years.

Ellen is survived by: her daughter, Nancy Arvidson of Scottsdale, AZ; her son, Greg (Kay) Opsal of Farmington, MN; five grandchildren, Garrett (Barbara) Arvidson of Vail, AZ, Ian Arvidson of Collierville, TN, Alexandra Arvidson of Waco, TX, Bailey (Adam) Wallenta of Bellingham, WA, and Kalli (Nick Rosbrook) Opsal of Waterbury, VT; and two great-grandchildren, Amelia and Lainey

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Elling; one brother, William Boust Jr.; and a sister, Norma Thallas.

Ellen had a passion for life and she lived hers to the fullest. She loved the outdoors, walking and traveling in her retirement. She literally "saw the world". Her smile was contagious up to her last days with us. Her faith was the

backbone of her life and she inspired not only her family but others through her example and testimony.

Her zest for living was evident in all she did. Her example and leadership encouraged countless children through her teaching. Her positive attitude and fearless pursuit of the life God planned for her stirred that same passion in her grandchildren. They saw clearly there is nothing they cannot do through faith. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" Phil 4:13.

Mom, Grandma was such a blessing and treasure. She will be greatly missed. We are thrilled she is with Jesus in the place he prepared for her.

John 14:2-3 NIV

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Funeral services will be 11am Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens in Cedar Falls. Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, Lincoln Elementary School, or the Cedar Bend Humane Society. Online guestbook at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens

Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 233-6136

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://aboutfirst.com>

Tribute Wall

LH

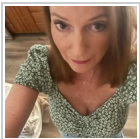
“ I'm so sorry I missed the notice of Ellen's death. And I am so sorry for your loss. I spent time with Mrs. Opsal's First Grade class through the CFHS cadet teaching program when I was a senior in high school. She was a kind, but firm, no-nonsense teacher for the kiddos she taught, and I learned a lot from her. For many years afterwards I enjoyed seeing her around town, and I will miss her.

Linda (Hoffman) Holm - February 17, 2022 at 09:12 AM

JS

“ Nancy & Greg,
My childhood memories are of your mom walking thru the alley, past our house every day going to Lincoln! Always sweet & kind to us crazy Ceilley kids! She was a blessing & I'm so happy she lived a long full life! My dad, Bernie Ceilley is 89 & my mom, Nancy Vogel is 88, and will be 89 in March! How lucky are we all to have had them here this long! Your mom was beautiful & such a blessing! Hugs to you all! God Bless- June Ceilley Swangel 💕
#Tremontstreetrocked

june ceilley swangel - January 18, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ Lori Collins Biondo lit a candle in memory of Ellen Mae Opsal



Lori Collins Biondo - January 17, 2022 at 10:18 AM



“ *Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Ellen Mae Opsal.*



January 15, 2022 at 04:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Opsal was like my second mother growing up because I was friends with her daughter Nancy. I was at their house a lot and I remember so many times sitting at their kitchen table talking to her. She was always so positive and kind. When my mother, Ruth Kelly, passed away a few years ago, Mrs. Opsal came to my mom’s memorial service at our church in town because” she knew I would be there and it was her chance to see me and talk to me after so many years.” Heaven has welcomed yet another angel 🙏 . Rest in heavenly peace, Mrs. Opsal, rest in heavenly peace. 🙏❤️*

Ellen (Kelly) Mange - January 14, 2022 at 09:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ellen Mae Opsal.*



January 14, 2022 at 07:51 PM

MB

“ Ellen was teaching first grade at Lincoln, when I joined the staff in 1989. I have many fond memories of Ellen from the years we taught together. I got to know Ellen even more when we faithfully attended Weight Watcher meetings, lamenting the fact that we couldn't eat everything we wanted to eat. Both of us were successful in our loss, so enjoyed sharing what went well each week. She touched many lives over the years and I'm glad I could call her "friend".

Moria Brown - January 14, 2022 at 06:18 PM

DW

“ Deb Wallenta purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Ellen Mae Opsal.



Deb Wallenta - January 14, 2022 at 01:06 PM

LM

“ Such fond memories of Mrs. Opsal as my 1st grade teacher and in daily life growing up in same neighborhood. Always a smile on her face and a kind word spoken. My condolences to Nancy and Greg.

Lori Marsh - January 14, 2022 at 10:31 AM

KB

“ She was one of my wonderful teachers at Lincoln School in the mid-1960's!! She had a kind smile & loving disposition!! Kelly (Huss) Bachman

Kelly Bachman - January 14, 2022 at 10:10 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ellen Mae Opsal.*



January 14, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ *The Wednesday night guys! purchased the Full O f Love Bouquet for the family of Ellen Mae Opsal.*



The Wednesday night guys! - January 13, 2022 at 08:21 PM